



OPERATION SINDOOR



The whole country was looking up to us. We are proud of our Army.

Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister of India



OPERATION SINDOOR

INDIA STRIKES NINE TERROR SITES IN PAKISTAN, PoJK

Missile strikes were carried out targeting specific locations in steps that were measured, focused and non-escalatory in nature: Govt

Parwinder Sandhu

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

A fortnight after 26 tourists were gunned down in Pahalgam by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists, India launched Operation Sindoar to avenge the killings. Targeting nine sites harbouring terrorists in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), Indian Armed Forces launched a post-midnight strike which lasted for 25 minutes.

A statement from the Ministry of Defence stated that the strike, which was carried out in the intervening night of 6-7 May, was focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature. "No Pakistani military facilities have been targeted. India has demonstrated considerable restraint in selection of targets and method of execution," an army spokesperson had said while announcing the strikes.

Justifying Operation Sindoar, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that it was carried out to avenge the deaths of 26 tourists' deaths in Pahalgam by Pakistan sponsored terrorists on 22 April. "The attack in Pahalgam



The strike on the terror camps was undertaken through precision capability, using niche technology weapons with careful selection of warheads that ensured no collateral damage. The point of impact in each of the targets was a specific building or a group of buildings, according to a defence spokesperson.

was marked by extreme barbarity, with the victims mostly killed with head-shots from close range and in front of their families. Family members were deliberately traumatized through the manner of the killing, accompanied by the

exhortation that they should take back the message," Mr Misri said while addressing a media briefing, hours after the strike. "The manner of the attack was also driven by an objective of provoking communal discord, both in

Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the Nation. It is to the credit of the government and the people of India that these designs were foiled," he added.

"Our intelligence monitoring of Pakistan-based terrorist modules indicated that



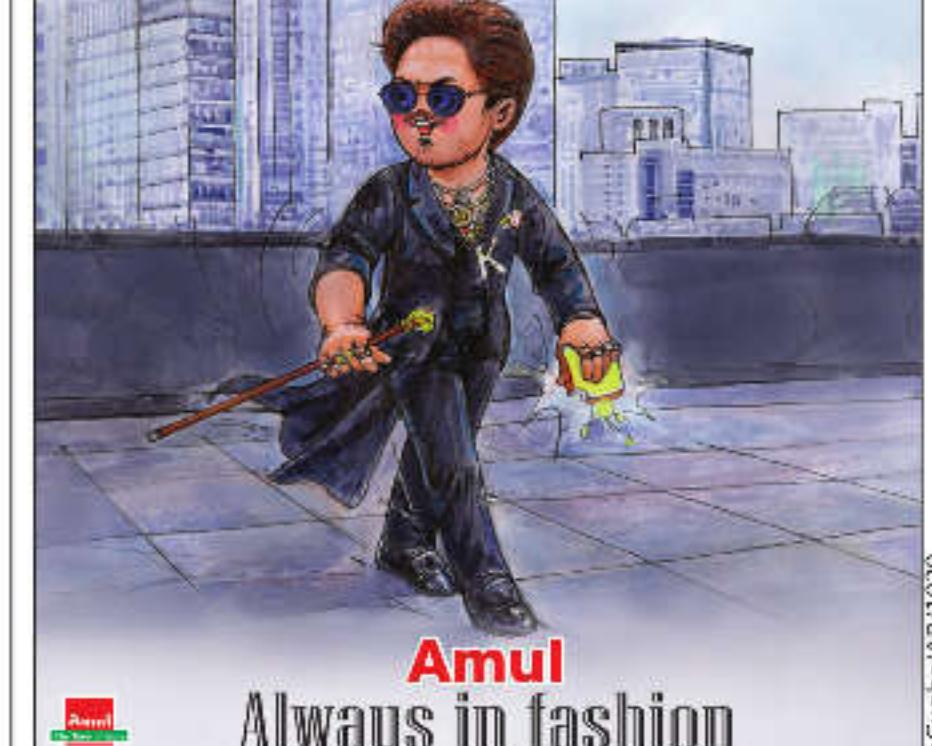
India carried out strikes against 9 terror camps of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) located in both Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

further attacks against India were impending. There was thus a compulsion both to deter and to pre-empt. Our actions were measured and non-escalatory, proportionate and responsible. They focused on dismantling ter-

rorists' infrastructure," he said. In the highly secretive operation, India carried out strikes against 9 terror camps of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) located in both Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It included Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur (JeM), Markaz Taiba, Muridke (LeT), Sarjal, Tehra Kalan (JeM), Mehmoona Joya, Sialkot (HM), Masjid Ahle Hadith Barnala, Bheri (LeT), Markaz Abbas, Kotli (JeM), Maskar Abbas, Kotli (JeM), Maskar Raheel Shahid, Kotli (HM), Shawali Nallah Camp, Muzaffarabad (LeT), and Syedna Bilal, Muzaffarabad (JeM).

Detailing the attack that was carried out in complete secrecy, Col Sofya Qureshi said that it started at 1.05 am and was over by 1.30 am. "Over the last three decades Pakistan has systematically built terror infrastructure. It is a complex web of recruitment and indoctrination centres, training areas for initial and refresher courses and launch pads with handlers. These camps are located both in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir," said the officer.

India's biggest Galakaar!



PM calls off three-nation European tour in wake of escalating India-Pak tensions

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called off his scheduled three-nation European tour following Operation Sindoar against terror camps in Pakistan, a source said on Wednesday. The decision was taken in the wake of Operation Sindoar, a military strike launched by the Indian Armed Forces targeting terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In a move seen as a retaliatory initiative to the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 25 Indian civilians and one Nepalese national, the Indian armed forces had early

Wednesday carried out 24 precision missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including Muridke and Bahawalpur, the strongholds of terror groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, respectively. The prime minister's planned tour, which was to begin next week, was packed with key diplomatic engagements, and was set to include visits to Croatia, Norway, and the Netherlands.

During his trip, Mr Modi was scheduled to attend the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo and hold discussions on high-tech collaboration in the Netherlands.

The prime minister's visit to Norway had an added significance as both nations have been trying to expand trade relations under the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement.

Will wrap up tensions if India backs down: Pak defence minister

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that the current tensions and escalated confrontation between India and Pakistan can come to a halt only if New Delhi backs out of its aggressive position.

Asif's remarks came after India launched 'Operation Sindoar', targeting nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) striking alleged terror hideouts.

Pakistan also claimed to have responded to Indian airstrikes with counter-offensive measures along the Line of Control (LoC).

Speaking to Bloomberg, Mr Asif said that Pakistan holds the right to respond to any aggression by India, insisting that Islamabad "was only

responding" to India's attacks and should not be seen as the aggressor in the current conflict.

"This has been initiated by India. If India is ready to back down, we will definitely wrap up this tension," he said.

"As long as we are under attack, under fire, we have to respond. We have to defend ourselves. But if India backs down, we will wrap up this tension," the Pakistani Defence

Minister added.

Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt. General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said that at least 26 people have been killed and 46 others injured in the airstrikes that New Delhi stated were conducted on terror camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Punjab province.

The country has been put on a 'red alert', with government hospitals ready for any emergency; airspace for all domestic and international flights closed for at least 24 to 36 hours; all educational institutions in capital Islamabad and the Punjab province closed; and, all forces on stand by following the late night Indian air strikes on terror hideouts in different parts of the country.

Four children among 15 killed, 57 injured as Pakistan targets civilians in Poonch

SP Sharma

JAMMU, 7 MAY

were injured.

The Pakistani Army was shelling civilian areas of Poonch and other places along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB). The Indian Army is responding to the shelling in equal measure, official sources said on the ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces after India carried out

missile strikes against nine terror targets in Pakistan and PoK. Ayan (14) and Aruba (12), son and daughter of one Rameez Khan, were killed in the Kalaani village that was heavily pounded. A 7-year-old Maryam Khatoon was killed in the Qazi Mohra village.

The Pakistani Army targeted civilian areas in Mendar,

Mankote, Balakote, Krishna Ghati, Sagra, and Shahpur Kurni areas along the LoC and also Poonch town, resulting in damage to dozens of houses. Civilians were also targeted in North Kashmir's Uri.

Three devotees were killed in a gurdwara, a Muslim cleric lost his life when a madrasa was shelled and two persons

died near the Christ School in Poonch. Several residential houses have been damaged and many more civilians injured in different sectors of Poonch due to intense shelling by Pakistan, and their condition was stated to be stable.

Nine civilians, including three children, were injured due to shelling in the Uri Sector

CBI chief gets one-year extension for want of consensus on successor

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The central government on Wednesday extended by one year the tenure of CBI director Praveen Sood after no consensus on his successor could be reached.

The decision to this effect was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, official sources said.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the selection committee for the appointment of CBI Director. The meeting, held at the PMO, was attended by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi along with other government officials. However, no consensus could be reached

on the issue.

Sood, a 1986-batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre, would have completed his two-year term on May 24. The officer, who also served as DGP in Karnataka, took over as the new CBI director in May 2023 for a period of two years.

He replaced Subodh Jaiswal, who was heading the premier probe agency at that point of time.

CBI Director is appointed by the union government on the recommendation of a three-member appointment committee, which comprises the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India. Prime Minister heads it. In 2019, the Supreme Court had directed that no officer with less than a tenure of six months remaining can be considered for the post of CBI Director.

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Earlier in the day, PM Modi met President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and formally briefed her on 'Operation Sindoar' in which nine terror targets were hit. He

Centre calls all-party meet

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

In the wake of Operation Sindoar, a tri-service military action targeting nine high-value terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the Centre has convened an all-party meeting on Thursday at 11 a.m. to brief the nation's political leadership on the strategic strikes. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju announced this on Wednesday and wrote on X, "Govt has called an All Party leaders meeting at 11 am on 8th May, 2023 at Committee Room: G-074, in the Parliament Library Building, Parliament Complex in New Delhi."

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, who played a significant role in chalking out India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, called up his counterparts from the USA, UK, China, Saudi Arabia and other nations, and briefed them on 'Operation Sindoar' in which nine terror targets were hit. He

India will retaliate if Pak decides to escalate: Doval

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

India is believed to have told friendly nations that it did not want to escalate the situation after carrying out missile attacks on terror hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), but is ready to retaliate if the neighbouring country decides to escalate.

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Sindoar Spilled, Justice Served: PM Modi chose code name to avenge Pahalgam massacre

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

In the intervening night of

6-7 May, a joint operation wiped the nine bases within 25 minutes.

According to reports, the name for the Operation was chosen by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The massacre which unleashed at Pahalgam on 22 April, saw many wives losing their husbands, who were shot dead at point-blank range. A few of the couples were on their honeymoon in the picturesque valley barely days after their marriages.

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The 30-year-old Dwivedi was in Pahalgam with his wife and sister-in-law when terrorists shot him in the head.

"It's a befitting reply after the way those terrorists erased the vermillion of our daughters," said Pragati Jagdale, widow of Santosh Jagdale, who was one of the victims. "On hearing the name of this operation, I got tears in my eyes. I sin-

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UP CM Yogi directs DGP to bolster security amid 'Operation Sindoor'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, 7 MAY

In light of "Operation Sindoor", Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the state DGP to ensure the safety of the citizens of the state and protect the state's vital installations.

In compliance with these directions, DGP Prashant Kumar on Wednesday issued important instructions to all Districts and Commissioners and police units.

According to the instructions, security of all critical infrastructure and vital installations falling under the jurisdiction need to be enhanced and upgraded, mock drills of internal security scheme



needs to be rehearsed with proper briefing and debriefing and all police infrastructure

including police lines, offices, depots needs to be secured and resource audit to be done.

The instructions also say to enhance access controls

to important infrastructures and installations with coordination with the agencies and units concerned by senior police officers. Besides, railways, highway movement of army convoys, railway bridges, ATF fuel movement for Air Force to be facilitated in coordination with Army/Air Force officers. The DGP instructed that communally sensitive districts to be on higher alert and deployment of police in sensitive hot spots, major oil pipelines, communication lines (towers, OFC cable lines), water supply lines and storage, electricity substations, and thermal power plants need to be protected. Intelligence collection and protection of notified prohibited places from enemy

sabotage and information leaks are to be maintained, while social media platforms are to be 24*7 monitored and respond quickly to rumor mongering and misinformation.

DGP said district control rooms to be on high alert and 112 vehicles to be deployed in strategic places while senior officers to be proactive and coordinate with the district administration, civil defence, Army, Air Force, and all stakeholders.

Besides, police war instructions are to be briefed to all concerned by senior officers and enhanced vigilance on the Nepal border in coordination with all security agencies.

Mock drill conducted in Lucknow Police Lines under CM's supervision

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, 7 MAY

A mock drill was conducted at the Police Lines here at 7 PM on Wednesday under the aegis of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Around 5,000 people from all walks of life assembled at the Police Lines and participated in the mock drill.

Several ministers were present at the Police Lines, along with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Before the mock drill, the Police Lines had been transformed into a locality. Children were playing while women were also present. Bhajan-kirtan was being held in a makeshift temple when suddenly the siren sounded, and people lay on the ground, holding themselves down.

Later, health staff and others rushed to assist the people. During the rehearsal, a bombing scenario was simulated. The

civil defence team rushed to the scene, the injured were taken to the hospital in ambulances.

The state government has announced a black-out rehearsal in Lucknow from 9 PM to 9:30 PM. The mock drill will be held in 19 districts of UP.

Jubilant crowds celebrated India's successful air strikes on Pakistan terror camps and hideouts throughout the day in the city on Wednesday. People waved tricolors on the streets and raised slogans in support of the Indian Army and the country.

U'khand deploys experts' team to tackle equine influenza among Kedarnath pack animals

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

DEHRADUN, 7 MAY

The Uttarakhand government has deployed a team of nearly 30 veterinary experts to combat a suspected outbreak of equine influenza among horses and mules engaged in pack animal services along the Kedarnath route during the ongoing Char Dham pilgrimage by the Indian Armed Forces.

Sukhu congratulated the security forces on the successful operation.

He praised their courage and professionalism in safeguarding the nation. He said the entire country was proud of the brave hearts and their unwavering dedication.

The Chief Minister reviewed the state's security, transport, and communication systems, along with food and power supply, disaster management and health services. He also issued necessary directions to the concerned officials.

Animal Husbandry Secretary BVRC Purushottam stated, "To deal with the present situation, the department has deployed a team comprising one Chief Veterinary Officer, two Deputy Chief Veterinary Officers, 22 veterinary doctors, and two scientists from the National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) in Haryana."

"Additionally, two specialist doctors from Pantnagar Agriculture University, who were actively involved in controlling the disease during the 2009 outbreak, have also been posted in the affected area."

According to Purushottam, the first signs of equine influenza in Kedarnath's pack animals emerged after NRCE experts conducted blood sampling on March 26, 2025, in two villages of Rudraprayag district.

Following preliminary positive results, approximately 16,000 horses and mules were

screened. Of these, 152 samples tested positive for equine influenza, though the results were not confirmed by subsequent RT-PCR tests.

Purushottam added, "Now, all horses employed on the Kedarnath pilgrimage trek will undergo sampling, and only animals with negative test results will be allowed on the yatra route."

He noted that each year, around 2,000 to 3,000 horses and mules are brought to Kedarnath from neighbouring Uttar Pradesh for the Char Dham Yatra.

However, in light of the detected infection, a complete ban on the use of these animals has been imposed. The final decision on lifting the ban will rest with the district administration.

The Animal Husbandry Secretary clarified that equine influenza is not transmissible to humans but spreads rapidly among horses and mules.

Operation Sindoor: Northeast CMs laud cross-border action amid India-Pak tension

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

GUWAHATI, 7 MAY

Chief ministers from northeast India have voiced emphatic support for Operation Sindoor, a bold cross-border strike launched by the Indian armed forces on 7 May targeting terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The operation comes in retaliation to the 22 April terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which killed 26 tourists and injured many others — one of the deadliest attacks in recent years.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took to X with a terse but emotionally charged message: "Jai Hind #OperationSindoor."

Former Manipur CM N. Biren Singh, said: "The wounds of Pahalgam still ache, but today, justice has begun to answer. Jai Hind!"

and stirring: "Bharat Mata Ki Jai #OperationSindoor." Tripura CM Manik Saha echoed nationalistic fervour with: "Jai Hind Bharat Mata Ki Jai."

The latest military action marks a dramatic escalation in the already fraught relationship between India and Pakistan. The two nations have witnessed a precarious calm since the 2019 Balakot airstrikes, but the Pahalgam attack has jolted Indian security agencies into heightened preparedness.

Civil & commercial flights suspended at Gwalior airport till tomorrow amid security concerns

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, 7 MAY

All operations of civilian and commercial aircraft have been suspended at Rajmata Vijayawara Scindia Airport in Gwalior until 9 May.

The airport holds strategic importance as it also serves as the Maharajpura Air Force Base of the Indian Air Force.

According to Airport Director Kashinath Yadav, all civil and commercial flight operations will remain suspended until 9 May. The airport shares its runway with the Indian Air Force, and the decision to reserve the runway exclusively for IAF aircraft follows escalating tensions between India and Pakistan after the Pahalgam, Kashmir, on 22 April.

Sukhbir denounces 'inhuman' attack on gurdwara in Poonch

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

the intervening night of May 6 and 7, has killed nine people and injured many.

"I strongly condemn the inhuman attack by Pakistani forces on the sacred Central Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Sahib in Poonch, which claimed the lives of three innocent Gursikhs, including Bhai Amrik Singh Ji (a raagi Singh), Bhai Amarjeet Singh, and Bhai Ranjit Singh," Badal said.

The Shiromani Akali Dal stands in complete solidarity

with the families of the deceased Gursikhs and prays for peace for the departed souls and strength for their friends and loved ones," Badal said in a social media post.

"We demand that the martyrs be honoured for their sacrifice and the bereaved families receive adequate compensation in their time of grief. Sikhs have always been, and will continue to be, the sword arm of the nation. We stand like a rock with our armed forces," he said.

"Although the Shiromani Akali Dal and our country stand for peace, if the enemy challenges our honour, we need no reminder to fulfil our patriotic duties," the former Punjab deputy chief minister added.

Pakistani forces have been violating the ceasefire on the LoC for over two weeks, following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. Indian forces have also been retaliating with full might.

CM releases ₹5 cr contingency funds for each border district in J&K

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 7 MAY

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired an emergency meeting with deputy commissioners of all border districts through video conferencing to assess the situation in the wake of intense cross border shelling in these districts.

The situation and preparedness to deal with emergencies was reviewed in view of the current developments and escalating tension particularly along the LoC and districts close to the international border.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Secretary Health & Medical Education and Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Baramulla, Kupwara

and Bandipora districts.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister gave directions to immediately release Contingency Funds of Rs 5 crore to each border district and Rs 2 crore each to other districts so that Deputy Commissioners are equipped to deal with the emergencies arising and requiring availability of adequate resources.

CM directed that frontier districts be accorded special priority in the disbursement of these funds.

Underscoring the paramount importance of safe-

guarding civilian lives, CM Omar Abdullah called for strengthening infrastructure with regard to providing shelters and bunkers for the public in border areas, keeping evacuation plans ready, and ensuring sufficient stock of food supplies.

In respect of medical assistance, the Chief Minister directed the Health Department to maintain sufficient stock of essential medical supplies, ensuring availability of doctors, paramedics and keeping blood supply ready in case of any depletion in

Omar stresses on safeguarding civilian lives in J&K

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 7 MAY

ity and preparedness along the LoC and International Border. He wrote on X, "Held a meeting to assess the security and preparedness along the border/LoC areas. Emphasis laid on safeguarding civilian lives, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring swift response to any emerging challenges".

districts so that Government machinery is fully functional and responds to the situation swiftly.

The officers briefed the Chief Minister on the preparedness and readiness of their respective districts, assuring that they are ready with all emergency operations and that all supplies have been stocked. Deputy Commissioners informed the CM that they are continuously monitoring the situation and would keep the administration informed about any requirements to deal with the situation.

He gave directions to the administration to immediately fill up vacant posts of Tehsildars and other officers in the

hospitals, especially in vulnerable areas. He also directed to move Ambulances to the border districts witnessing cross border shelling so that in case of any casualty, the injured are rushed to the hospitals.

The Chief Minister expressed grief at the loss of lives and injuries to several civilians living along the LOC and asked Deputy Commissioners to provide all assistance to the affected families.

He gave directions to the administration to immediately fill up vacant posts of Tehsildars and other officers in the

Haryana launches statewide mock drill under 'Operation Abhyas' to strengthen disaster preparedness

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, 7 MAY

Haryana Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the mock drill under 'Operation Abhyas,' which will be conducted across all 22 districts in Haryana at 4 pm on Wednesday. As part of the drill, the general public has been asked to switch off all lights in their homes from 7:50 pm to 8 pm.

During the meeting, Rastogi issued comprehensive directives to all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendents of Police (SPs) regarding the operational aspects of the mock drill.

He emphasised that the exercise would commence

at key government installations, public sector units (PSUs), and other critical sites. Deputy Commissioners (DCs) have been instructed to activate their civil defence systems as part of this coordinated response.

The mock drill will be a joint effort involving Home Guards, Civil Defence volunteers, the police, NCC officers, and Apada Mitras. The Chief Secretary reiterated that the aim of the exercise is preparation and precaution, not panic. He urged DCs to hold press conferences and inform the public that this is merely a preparatory drill, reassuring them there is no cause for concern.

Rastogi further instructed the DCs to encourage the

public to promptly report any suspicious activities in their respective areas to the police and local authorities. Community leaders and prominent local figures should also be involved to help disseminate crucial information

about the 'Dos and Don'ts' during the drill.

Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Dr Sumita Misra said the Civil Defence Mock Drill was mandated for 11 districts in Haryana. However, to strengthen the state's preparedness, the mock drill will be conducted in all districts of the state, starting at 4 pm with the sounding of a siren.

She said the state government has formally implemented the Incident Response System (IRS) at both the District and State levels under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. This initiative, which was notified on January 28, 2025, aims to streamline the response mechanism, reduce confusion during emergency situations, and minimise reliance on ad hoc

measures. As part of the IRS structure, the Chief Secretary will serve as the Responsible Officer (RO), with the Financial Commissioner Revenue (FCR) and Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) for Revenue designated as the Incident Commander (IC).

Key roles, including District Incident Coordinators (DIC), Nodal Officers, Safety Officers, Liaison Officers, and Information and Media Officers, have also been appointed at the state level to ensure effective communication and coordination.

She also directed DCs to ensure all fire services and trauma centres are ready to deal with any emergency. She said the drill aims to prepare the civilian population for any emergency and reduce

the potential of mass panic during such dire/hostile situations.

She informed that a black-out drill will be conducted across the state from 7:50 pm to 8 pm, during which the general public is advised to stay indoors and away from windows. If you are driving, then park your vehicle on the side and turn off the lights.

Stay where you are and avoid unnecessary movement. Turn off all indoor and outdoor lights during alerts, including disconnecting inverters or alternative power supplies. She informed that evacuation, fire safety exercises, and the implementation of the Air Raid Warning System will also be ensured during 'Operation Abhyas.'



My first priority as CM is to serve people in Tripura: Manik Saha

'Centre has placed the state in the Zone B category, enabling it to receive incentives, which will help locally produced goods compete in the market'

States are coming up with a 100-key super luxury heritage hotel in the heart of Agartala, upgrading its erstwhile Raj Bhawan, which will have four heritage suites and relics of the Manikya Raj. This will generate hundreds of direct and indirect employment. Reliance Group has also evinced keen interest in investing in the picturesque north-eastern state and is weighing various options. The state, which has nine super-specialty hospitals, two general medical colleges, government dental college, government ayurvedic college, nursing college, pharmacy college, is in the process of receiving a Rs 700 crore investment from Shifa Hospitals and Research Centre of Manipur for a 700-bed large hospital. The state, which has 2.1 lakh micro and mid-sized entrepreneurs, has been witnessing a significant growth (both qualitative and quantitative) in its MSME and start-up ecosystem. Self-Help Groups are also flourishing, let alone the continuing growth and boom in the agriculture sector. And all these taken together, the quaint, scenic state is now on a high growth trajectory. And navigating this upward journey from the front is kurtapajama-clad, extremely soft-spoken, state's new Chief Minister, Prof Dr Manik Saha, an academician, medical practitioner-turned politician.

In a free-wheeling tête-à-tête with Ritwik Mukherjee of *The Statesman* at his Agartala residence, Dr Saha shares his cherished dreams and vision about the state, recent socio-political developments in neighbouring Bangladesh, among many other issues.

Excerpts:

■ **When you took over as the state Chief Minister almost all on a sudden, many said you were airdropped. You did not get a chance or time to set your priorities. But now you must have set your priorities straight and have your job well cut out. So what are your priorities?**

A: When I assumed the office as the Chief Minister of Tripura, it was indeed a sudden responsibility bestowed upon me. However, as PM Modi ji had given me the opportunity, I accepted it with a deep sense of duty towards the people of our state. While the transition was swift, my years of experience in public life and administration allowed me to adapt quickly to the demands of the role. After assuming the Chief Minister's chair, my first priority was to serve for the people. For their welfare and development of the state. Apart from this, good governance and transparency along with boosting economy, youth empowerment, skill development and also empowering the women. We have also launched *Proti Ghore Sushasan*, which aims to fulfil people's demands and needs.

■ **How could you leverage or take advantage of being a 'double engine government'?**

A: We have triple engine government including Union government led by PM Modi ji, our State Government and Agartala Municipal Corporation. After PM Modi assumed chair, he stressed upon the Northeast region. He has declared HIRA Model for us i.e. benefitting starting from Highways, Internet Connectivity, Railways and Airways.

The double engine gov-

ernment is helping us in the faster implementation of policies and various schemes which introduced for the benefit of the people, the financial support, infrastructure and crisis management. During the devastating flood situation, we have worked tirelessly and the Central government led by Prime Minister Modi ji and Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji has helped us any all-possible way and sent immediate relief to the state. The health infrastructures have also significantly changed starting from dental college, nursing college, superspecialty hospitals.

■ **Tripura is not as difficult a terrain as other north eastern states. How do you propose to take advantage of this?**

A: The face of Tripura is gradually changing after our government came to power in 2018. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given special importance to the development of the North Eastern region through the Act East Policy. There is no talk except for overall development. The state has only one lifeline which was National Highway 08. Apart from this more new six highways have been constructed and for this now reaching Unakoti District from Agartala take around 2 hours which was tough job before 2018. The railway connectivity has also boosted up. We have now several express trains, DEMU and etc.

■ **What is your vision about taking this small picturesque state to the next level of development?**

A: I have been saying that the BJP and our state gov-



ernment's main aim is development and work for progress. We talk less and work more. For the next level of development, we are focusing on harnessing our natural resources like rubber, tea, agar, bamboo which earlier never came into focus, infrastructure development of all the sectors, skill development is must, boosting MSME and Entrepreneurship along with Self-Help Group which has significantly increased in our state. We are also working on green energy.

■ **What are your thoughts on regional cooperation and coordination to move along the path of progress and development?**

A: Regional cooperation and coordination are essential pillars for fostering progress and development. When regions work together, they pool resources, share expertise, and align strategies, creating a foundation for mutual growth. Regional cooperation serves as a catalyst for sustainable development, ensur-

ing that progress is equitable, resilient, and holistic.

■ **When it comes to industrial development, what are your thrust areas? Which are the industry sectors, you are laying utmost thrust on?**

A: We had industry sector which was unused during the long tenure of the Left Front regime. However, after our government came into power, we have taken several steps for attracting investors in our state. Investors will come when peace and tranquillity is prevailing and in our state law and order is very good. We are stressing on bamboo, tea, agar-based industry. We have also tourism. The present state government is making all efforts to attract investors to the state, with over 200 investments already made and more investments worth over Rs 1,000 crore in the pipeline. We know how Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working for the Northeast. He has always said that without developing the Northeast, the country's

development is incomplete. PM Modi introduced this UNNATI programme to further industrial development in the Northeast region and attract investors. Over the next 10 years, more than 83,000 jobs will be generated, with a budget of Rs 10,037 crore sanctioned for the Northeast, which will benefit the people of Tripura and other northeastern states. Centre has placed Tripura in the Zone B category, enabling it to receive incentives, which will help locally produced goods compete in the market. State government has established the Tripura Investment Promotion Agency to assist those interested in investing or opening industries in the state, along with an online 'Single Window' portal to eliminate the need for physical visits to departments.

■ **For so long, north eastern states had been depending on central funds. But in today's context, no region or state can prosper without private capital. What are you doing about that?**

A: Tripura is undergoing a transformation, and attracting private capital has become a key focus for the state's development. While central funds remain an important support system, we are proactively creating an environment that welcomes private investment. Tripura has made significant strides in improving its ranking in the Ease of Doing Business index. Simplified processes, single-window clearances, and investor-friendly policies are now in place to encourage entrepreneurs to set up businesses in the state. We are also creating Self-Help Groups, encouraging

entrepreneurship. We are also focusing on tourism as the number of tourists has significantly increased.

■ **What are you doing about physical and social infrastructure development in the state?**

A: As part of our commitment to the holistic development of Tripura, we are implementing strategic initiatives to enhance both physical and social infrastructure in the state. In physical infrastructure the road and railway connectivity have significantly improved. We are connecting all the rural roads with the national highways. We are using schemes like PMGSY. Expanding urban planning initiatives under AMRUT and Smart Cities programmes to modernise cities like Agartala, strengthening internet connectivity in remote areas to bridge the digital divide and promoting e-governance and digital services for citizens. While in social infrastructure development we are upgrading all our social health care, primary health care and also the district hospitals and also promoting cultural and heritage programmes to strengthen the social fabric.

■ **Tripura is predominantly an agricultural state. Any special thoughts and strategies on revival of rubber plantation, cashing in on pineapple and some other fruits and vegetables that the state produces?**

A: We have declared Queen Pineapple as our state fruits and also it got GI tags. Our government also exporting pineapple, jackfruits in foreign

countries like Dubai, Oman, Holland and other countries as well as in our various states. For this the price of pineapples has increased benefitting the local farmers. We are also expanding of rubber-based industries and we have also central processing units for rubber as well.

■ **How do you see the recent socio-political developments in Bangladesh, which shares borders with Tripura, as a result of which there are certain security challenges and at the same time trade and business opportunities?**

A: This is of course a concerning matter as minorities there are coming under various kinds of attacks. We are hopeful that the situation will be changed soon and controlled.

■ **How challenging and difficult has it been to emerge as state's helmsman from being a medical practitioner and professor?**

A: Emerging as the state's helmsman from a background in medicine and academia has been an incredibly challenging journey. Transitioning from a medical practitioner and professor to a political leader required developing a deep understanding of governance, policy-making, and leadership. The shift demanded resilience, adaptability, and the ability to balance technical expertise with the needs and aspirations of the people. It involved learning new skills, building alliances, and navigating complex socio-political landscapes, making it a demanding yet rewarding evolution.

Classified

TENDER NOTICE

Central Instrumentation Facility

University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi-110021

Ref. No: DU/IOE/CIF-UDSC/BLI/2025
Online bids (technical and financial separately) are invited for procurement of "Bio-Layer Interferometry based Bio-molecular interaction system" (BLI) from interested eligible bidders/manufacturers. Last date of online bid submission is 21.05.2025. Details of the tender can be downloaded from E-procurement (CIP) portal. The E-procurement Tender ID is: 2025_DU_858445_1 dated 01.05.2025.

Professor In-Charge

Central Instrumentation Facility

University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi-110021

Ref. No: UDS/CI/CLIS/2025-26
Online bids (technical and financial separately) are invited for procurement of "Live cell imaging system (on confocal platform)" from interested eligible bidders/manufacturers. Last date of online bid submission is 24.05.2025. Details of the tender can be downloaded from E-procurement (CIP) portal. The E-procurement Tender ID is: 2025_DU_858798_1 dated 03.05.2025.

Professor In-Charge

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

LEGAL NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

IN THE COURT OF

Sh. Sandeep Chauhan,

Additional District and

Sessions Judge, Gurugram

CNR No.:

HRGRO1-0717038-2019

Next Date : 21-05-2025

BHAGWAT

Vs

DEVENDER SINGH DECEASED

THROUGH LR SANDEEP

PUBLICATION ISSUED TO :

SHABNAM, MOTHER : SMT.

SHAKUNTALA DEVI, VILLAGE

AND PO BALUDA SOHNA, AT

PRESENT VILLAGE AND PO

BHUMARKA, NARNAUL.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s) / respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 21-05-2025 at 10:00 a.m. For details logon to <http://highcourtindia.gov.in/tor> s=district_notice&district=Gurugram

Additional District and

Sessions Judge, Gurugram

Dated this day of 07-05-2025

Seal of the Court

J.(Civil)-12

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING

ATTENDANCE OF

DEFENDANT

(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code

of Civil Procedure)

IN THE COURT OF

Ms. Anu Grover Baliga,

District Judge (Commercial

Court)-04, Room No. 21,

Block-I, South-East District,

Saket Court Complex,

New Delhi-110021.

SUIT NO. : CS/COMM/3715/2024

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA -Plaintiff

Vs

MRS. MAMTA DEVI PROP.

OF M/S AKKU PAUCHING -Defendant

To,

MRS. MAMTA DEVI

PROPRIETOR OF M/S AKKU

PAUCHING, HOUSE NO. 317,

EXTENSION VILLAGE, BADLI

CITY, NEW DELHI-110024.

ALSO AT: B-340, J.J. COLONY,

SECTOR-15, BHARAT VIHAR,

Through

General public is hereby informed that I, SANDEEP KAPUR, am filing an application in L&DO for substitution of property bearing Plot No. 84, Block B, (also known as Property No. B-84), situated at New Rajender Nagar, New Delhi-110060 in my name, on the grounds of death of erstwhile Lessee, my grandfather namely Mr. Narain Dass. If there are any objections / claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at ldo@nic.in within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Name : SANDEEP KAPUR

Address : B-84, New Rajender Nagar, New Delhi-110060

Through

Mr. Ritu Bhayana W/ Sh.

Raj Bhayana, both resident

of Bhayana Farm, 100 Ft. Road,

Ghiori, New Delhi-110030

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Through

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Operation Sindoos: India destroys nine terror camps in 25 minutes

The selection of the targets for strike operation was based on credible intelligence inputs: Colonel Quereshi

PARWINDER SANDHU

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

In a matter of 25 minutes, Operation Sindoos, a joint operation carried out by the India Armed Forces, razed nine terrorist camps housed in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

The operation that was carried out in the intervening night of 6-7 May, was to avenge the deaths of 26 tourists in Pahalgam by Pakistan sponsored terrorists on 22 April.

"The attack in Pahalgam was marked by extreme barbarity, with the victims mostly killed with head-shots from close range and in front of their families. Family members were deliberately traumatised through the manner of the killing, accompanied by the exhortation that they should take back the message," said Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri addressing a media briefing today.

Detailing the attack that was carried out in complete secrecy, Col Sofia Quereshi said that it started at 1.05 a.m. and was over by 1.30 a.m.

"Over the last three decades Pakistan has systematically built terror infrastructure. It is a complex web of recruitment and indoctrination centres, training areas for initial and refresher courses and launch pads with handlers. These camps are located both in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir," said the officer.

Stating that the selection of targets for the strike operation was based on credible intelligence inputs and role of these facilities in perpetrating terror activities, Quereshi said that the locations were selected with due diligence to avoid damage to civilian installations and loss of civilian lives.

The strike on the terror camps was undertaken through precision capability,



using niche technology weapons with careful selection of warheads that ensured no collateral damage. The point of impact in each of the targets was a specific building or a group of buildings.

It was stated that not only were targets neutralised with clinical efficiency, none of the military establishments were targeted by the striking force.

"India has demonstrated considerable restraint in its response. However, Indian Armed Forces are fully prepared to respond to Pakistani misadventure, if any, to escalate the situation," said Col Quereshi.

In the highly secretive operation, India carried out strikes against 9 terror camps of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) located in both Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It included Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur - JeM, Markaz Taiba, Muridke - LeT, Sarjal, Tehra Kalan - JeM, Mehmoona Joya, Sialkot - HM, Markaz Ahle Hadith, Barnala - LeT, Markaz Abbas, Kotli - JeM, Maskar Raheel Shahid, Kotli - HM, Shawai Nalla Camp, Muzaffarabad - LeT, and Syedna Bilal Camp, Muzaffarabad - JeM.

Located in POJK, 30 km from the Line of Control in Tangdhar Sector, the Shawai Nalla Camp in Muzaffarabad was a key LeT training facility.

The attack on civilians and Security Forces in Sonmarg on 20 October 2024, Gulmarg on 24 October 2024 and Pahalgam attack on 22 April, were carried out by the terror module which had its germination at Shawai Nalla.

Syedna Bilal Camp, Muzaffarabad, a camp of Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist organisation, was being used as a staging area. This camp was used to train terrorists in weapons, explosives and jungle cum survival techniques for carrying out terrorist activities across Line of Control in Kashmir region.

Op Sindoos: Congress applies pause to scheduled party programmes

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The Congress on Wednesday decided to pause all its scheduled party programmes including Samvidhan Bachao rallies. Party secretary KC Venugopal said.

He said that the Congress Working Committee that met on Wednesday decided to "pause all scheduled party programs, including Samvidhan Bachao rallies, standing incomplete solidarity with our armed forces during this critical hour."

The solidarity gesture of the Congress party comes in the wake of Operation Sindoos carried out early Wednesday by Indian armed forces targeting terror camps in Pakistan and PoJK.

The CWC meeting was held on Wednesday, "reaffirmed and reiterated its

support to the country's defense forces and the government to deal with Pakistan following the terror attack in Pahalgam."

The meeting which was presided over by the party president Mallikarjun Kharge was attended, among others, by the Leader of Opposition Iwaya Takeshi with the latter advocating "that fair investigation and punishment of offenders of this (Pahalgam) terrorist attack are important.

A statement issued by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "At the outset, Minister Iwaya extended his sincere condolences to the victims of the terrorist attack in Kashmir and expressed his deepest sympathy to those who were injured in the attack."

Asserting that fair investigation and punishment of offenders of this terrorist attack are important, Mr Iwaya affirmed that "terrorism cannot be justified for any reason and Japan strongly condemns all forms of terrorism".

Minister Iwaya further maintained that "Japan is deeply concerned that the recent series of events could lead to further reprisals and escalate into a full-scale military conflict". He urged both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and stabilise the situation through dialogue for the peace and stability in South Asia.

The Japanese minister's concerns assume significance as more and more world leaders are urging both India and Pakistan to exercise calm and maximum restraint in the wake of Operation Sindoos carried out by Indian armed forces targeting terror camps in Pakistan and PoJK.

India deploys SCALP cruise missiles, hammer bombs in joint forces' strike on terror hubs

PARWINDER SANDHU

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

India launched Operation Sindoos against Pakistan on the intervening night of May 6-7 to strike at nine sites harboring terror activities. The joint operation carried out by the Indian Armed Forces was launched to avenge the death of 26 tourists killed in Pahalgam terror attack.

As per the reports, India used a mix of weapons to carry out the counter strike successfully. It included SCALP cruise missile, the HAMMER precision bomb, and loitering munitions among the others.

The SCALP missile, also known as Storm Shadow, is



a long-range, air-launched cruise missile with a range exceeding 250 kilometres and designed for deep-strike capabilities. Further HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range), a smart bomb was used to strike hardened infrastructure

such as reinforced bunkers and multi-storey buildings used as training and logistical centres by LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), according to the reports.

In the highly secretive operation, India carried out strikes against 9 terror camps

of Hizb-ul-Mujahidin (HM), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) located in both Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Included Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur - JeM, Markaz Taiba, Muridke - LeT, Sarjal, Tehra Kalan - JeM, Mehmoona Joya, Sialkot - HM, Markaz Ahle Hadith, Barnala - LeT, Markaz Abbas, Kotli - JeM, Maskar Raheel Shahid, Kotli - HM, Shawai Nalla Camp, Muzaffarabad - LeT, and Syedna Bilal Camp, Muzaffarabad - JeM.

Also dubbed "kamikaze drones," the loitering munitions were deployed for surveillance, target acquisition, and terminal strike roles, it was stated.

In the highly secretive operation, India carried out strikes against 9 terror camps

Prime Minister Modi briefs Prez Murmu on Operation Sindoos

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and briefed her on Operation Sindoos, a bold and tightly coordinated military action in which Indian armed forces struck multiple high-value terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

"Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and briefed her about Operation Sindoos," the President's office posted on X.

Launched in the early hours of Wednesday, the tri-services operation was conducted jointly by the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy.

Between 1.05 a.m. and 1.30 a.m., a barrage of 24



missiles hit nine terrorist facilities, including Lashkar-e-Taiba's headquarters in Muridke and key installations in Bahawalpur - locations long identified as breeding grounds for terror activities.

According to government sources, the operation killed an estimated 70 terrorists. Officials said the action was deliberately designed to be non-escalatory and propor-

tionate, avoiding civilian and military infrastructure while specifically targeting verified terrorist camps.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, addressing a media briefing in New Delhi alongside Army Colonel Sophia Qureshi and Air Force Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, described the strikes as "measured and proportionate".

He added that the attacks

were launched in response to credible intelligence of impending attacks by Pakistan-based terror outfits.

The 22 April terror attack in Pahalgam, attributed to The Resistance Front - a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba - claimed the lives of 26 civilians, including one Nepali national. It was one of the deadliest civilian terror incidents on Indian soil since the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Colonel Qureshi noted that Pakistan has, over the decades, developed a network of terror camps, launch pads, and recruitment centres across PoK and within its own borders.

"This operation was

aimed at dismantling those

fore foundations," she said, calling it a strategic shift in India's counter-terror posture.

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Ramping up

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued a crucial directive to all states and Union Territories, emphasising the need to enhance civil defence mechanisms. This move, the first since the 1971 Indo-Pak war, comes in the wake of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam which claimed the lives of 26 individuals. While the directive does not directly mention the possibility of a war with Pakistan, it signals a significant shift in India's national security posture, aligning with growing concerns over military threats and the preparedness to counter them. The MHA's directive mandates the installation and operability of air raid sirens across the country. These sirens are a critical element of civil defence, ensuring that citizens are alerted in the event of an emergency, such as an aerial attack or sudden threat. The focus on air raid sirens highlights the government's commitment to bolstering preparedness for scenarios that may escalate into more severe threats. Additionally, the ministry has called for an extensive review of blackout protocols to ensure the country is ready for any power disruptions that may arise during critical moments. The government has scheduled a nationwide civil defence exercise on May 7, spanning 244 districts, down to the village level. This exercise will involve various stakeholders, including district authorities, civil defence volunteers, home guards, and students from schools and colleges. The participation of students is a key aspect, reinforcing the government's aim to train civilians, including the younger generation, in essential civil defence practices. These mock drills will simulate real-life emergency situations to assess the operational readiness of various civil defence measures. This exercise is a critical step in evaluating the coordination and efficiency of preparedness strategies at the grassroots level. The MHA's push for enhanced civil defence comes just days after a high-level meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. This meeting, alongside other Cabinet-level discussions, underscores the urgency with which the government is addressing the security situation, particularly following the Pahalgam attack. The attack itself prompted the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to take charge of the investigation, which has led to the questioning of over 300 individuals. This directive to ramp up civil defence readiness and conduct nationwide exercises could also be seen as part of India's broader strategic recalibration, which is focused on ensuring that the nation is well-prepared to deal with a range of internal security challenges. In the context of the strained relationship with Pakistan, this emphasis on civil defence may be an indirect acknowledgment of the possibility of further regional instability. India's proactive approach to enhancing its internal defence mechanisms reflects a broader strategic response to potential threats. The MHA's directives are a clear signal of India's resolve to bolster civil defence readiness and ensure the safety and security of its citizens. While these steps are necessary to mitigate the risks of war, they also subtly acknowledge the on-going security concerns at the international level.

Humane battles

The decision by Israel's security cabinet to intensify its military offensive in Gaza and seize territorial control marks a dangerous and deeply troubling shift. At a time when diplomacy should be at the forefront, this renewed military strategy underscores a broader failure - not just in securing hostages or ensuring security, but in preserving basic humanitarian norms and human dignity. At the heart of this plan lies a chilling premise: that Gaza's civilian population can simply be "moved" as a strategic variable in a military campaign. The notion that 2.1 million people can be displaced, again, under the pretext of protection, disregards the suffering and trauma already endured. Many of these civilians have faced repeated evacuations, loss of homes, and crumbling access to food, medicine, and water. The idea that forced relocation equates to protection is not only cynical - it's inhumane. It is also worth noting that Israel's stated aim to eliminate Hamas remains as elusive as ever. Despite months of bombardment, the group has not been eradicated, and many of the hostages remain captive. Instead, what the world sees is a battered, starving population and a rising death toll. When the military fails to achieve strategic goals, doubling down rarely yields success - it only compounds the tragedy. What's more concerning is the plan to control humanitarian aid through private or military channels, effectively bypassing established international organisations. This move strips aid of its neutrality and risks turning food and medicine into tools of leverage. Such a tactic not only contravenes international humanitarian law but also sets a perilous precedent. Civilians should never have to choose between starvation and forced displacement. The psychological toll on Gaza's population - especially children - is profound and enduring. Generations are growing up amid rubble, trauma, and fear, with no clear vision of peace or stability. This emotional devastation will haunt the region long after the last missile falls, sowing seeds of resentment that no wall or army can contain. The broader implications of this strategy are equally bleak. By prioritising territorial control over the lives of hostages and the welfare of civilians, the Israeli leadership risks alienating even its staunchest allies. Domestic pressure is mounting, and the Israeli public's frustration over the government's inability to bring the hostages home is palpable. The hostage families' cries for negotiation and de-escalation have been drowned out by the drumbeat of war. A true victory in this conflict cannot be measured by territorial gains or body counts. It will be measured by the ability to forge a just, lasting peace where both Palestinians and Israelis can live with dignity, security, and hope. The current path - marked by siege, displacement, and despair - leads only to more hatred and more bloodshed. It is time for leadership that values restraint over retaliation, negotiation over domination, and humanity over territorial ambition. The world watches not just the battlefield, but the moral compass of those who lead it.

More Chicanery

Islamabad has all along played the duplicitous act of fanning terrorism across its borders. It seeks to flex its muscle with the undue leverage that regional dissonance and discord affords it. From supporting violent insurgent groups based on sectarian considerations in Iran, to deadly groups loyal to Islamabad in Afghanistan, to virtually any grouping willing to create mayhem in India – anything goes for Pakistan



When terrorists killed Indian citizens in the cowardly attack in Pahalgam, the

fingers were immediately and justifiably pointed across the Line-of-Control (LoC). The perfunctory official message of Pakistani authorities in condemning the attack and condoning the deaths was insincere, insufficient, and incorrigible, given that this has been the tactic for decades following every such terror attack. The nefarious hand of Pakistan in creating, nurturing, and supporting, the terror ecosystem needs no reiteration or reconfirmation.

Harking back to the first tweet of 2018 by the then President of the USA, Donald Trump (in his first term) ~ the clearly frustrated POTUS had called out Pakistan's 'deceit' and 'duplicity' on terrorism, and for offering a "safe haven" to terrorists. Even Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, who disagreed with Trump on most things, was completely aligned on Pakistan as he had earlier said, "We need to make clear to people that the cancer is in Pakistan".

That Pakistan itself is mired in a self-acknowledged and deadly mutation of religious extremism, intolerance and terrorism, is clearly its own doing. Political scientist and global terror expert Daniel Byman had famously stated, "Pakistan may now be the single biggest state sponsor of terrorism, beyond even Iran, yet it has never been listed by the US State Department as a state sponsor of terrorism".

The fact that Pakistan was always key to American interest often allowed it to get away without adequate censure or sanctions - the Americans would conveniently look the other way when it wasn't their own interest or personnel that were targeted or pat Pakistan on its back, whenever it helped get an occasional 'hit' on someone from America's 'wanted list' (like Trump recently praised

Pakistan for aiding the arrest of a key terrorist involved in the 2021 Kabul airport bombing). But that is the typical American transactional policy.

Islamabad has all along played the duplicitous act of fanning terrorism across its borders. It seeks to flex its muscle with the undue leverage that regional dissonance and discord affords it. From supporting violent

insurgent groups based on

sectarian considerations in Iran, to deadly groups loyal to Islamabad in Afghanistan, to virtually any grouping willing to create mayhem in India – anything goes for Pakistan. Afghanistan's former

President, Hamid Karzai had lamented, "we seriously have issues with the military and intelligence

agency of Pakistan because they are using extremist methods based on religion to destabilize Afghanistan." Irrespective of which government came in, Iran, Afghanistan or India – each has consistently and uniformly blamed the Pakistani hand in each terror incident.

It is so bad that now even Pakistan's own creation in Afghanistan, the Taliban, are up in arms against Islamabad, for they believe Islamabad always plays a double-game, even against its own creation i.e. the Taliban.

India of course is well versed with the Pakistani playbook in 'post-terror incident management' as it can deploy a combination of outright denials, deflections, mealy-mouthed what-abouties, implausible contexts, to one of its favourite tactics i.e., blame it on so-called, 'non state actors', as they come with the handle of plausible deniability.

Except that there are no

takers for Pakistan's innocence, and it has found itself embarrassed to feature on the global finance laundering watchdog agency FATF's (Financial Action Task Force) infamous 'Grey List'. Incorrigibility on terror has been a hallmark that has frustrated all its neighbours, ostensible 'allies' like the USA, and even its own citizenry who are now facing the brunt of patronized religious extremism.

Against this backdrop to disingenuously call the Pahalgam terror attack in the Kashmir Valley by terrorists as a "False Flag Operation" was typically and instinctively, a Pakistani patent. Except that as usual, it cuts no ice. The 16th century term 'False Flag' is rooted in the times when pirates on high seas would

ignobly deceive other ships into allowing them proximity under the false belief that they were of one sovereign or intention, when they were not. The intention basically was to carry out an action (attack) with the intention of blaming an opponent or enemy.

So, the Pakistani reaction was predicated on the suggestion that the terror attack had no links or support from Pakistan, as the country had no reason to disturb the peace in India, especially the Kashmir Valley.

To even imagine such a ludicrous suggestion is to reject all telltale militaristic/security pointers in this action, ignore the history besetting terrorism in Kashmir, and to forget Pakistan's own position and preference on outcomes in Kashmir.

Just weeks ago, the Pakistani Army Chief had called Kashmir India's 'jugular vein' and even worse, even as the blood in Pahalgam had barely dried, the Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister

and Foreign Minister had called the terrorists who had carried out this specific carnage 'freedom fighters'.

It is further an anathema and abhorrence to attribute this tragedy as a 'False Flag Operation' as that would suggest that the terror attack was deliberately organised by India to make the perpetrators appear to be Pakistanis (or supported/controlled by Pakistan), thereby giving India a handle to name and shame or even offer a pretext for a destructive attack/strike on a foreign country (in this case, Pakistan).

This was the exact storyline that Pakistan had adopted during 'Kargil' (when it initially refused to accept bodies of Pakistanis killed), during the attack on Mumbai (Islamabad had even denied that Ajmal Kasab was a Pakistani) and during Pulwama.

This bogey of 'non-State actors' who supposedly conduct 'false flag operations' is a conspiracy theory that is actually eating into the vitals of Pakistan itself. Today after making a killing with a 'false flag' approach to wash its bloody hands of any blame-game in supporting the birth and rise of Taliban in Afghanistan, the uncontrollable genie of religious extremism is rebounding on Pakistan itself, with deadly consequences.

For Islamabad to plead innocence in creating the mess in Afghanistan or in India, is to live under a rock.

Having deliberately pussy-footed on repeated requests from India to control the people, policies, and 'nurseries' of terrorism in Pakistan that are creating havoc in the region ~ it is ironic that it does not see that while neighbours are still socio-economically and morally resilient to withstand such incidents, Pakistan is living on dole, aid and desperation.

India will do what it has to do on Pahalgam, but every day and with every act of denial such as the 'False Flag' chicanery, Pakistan is only digging a deeper grave for itself.

A MEMBER OF THE

ANN
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

Trade unions mobilizing workers for modernization

The year 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. In his important speech to mark the anniversary on May 1, President Xi Jinping has highlighted the need to comprehensively enhance the quality of workforce amid the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation.

What the top leader pointed out is the federation's right direction at a time when productive forces and the relations of production are undergoing profound changes. The federation is poised to make significant contributions to Chinese modernization by cultivating highly skilled workers and uniting workers under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. As the main force of the working class in China, industrial workers are a pillar for promoting the innovation and application of new technologies. To accelerate industrial upgrading and enhance the core competitiveness of enterprises, efforts should be made to deepen reform of industrial workers and cultivate workers with new strengths.

In October, the central authorities issued a guideline to promote the reform and cultivation

CHINADAILY

of first-class industrial technical workers, helping them cope with the challenges brought by the rapidly evolving new technologies and new business models. As a bridge between the Party and workers, trade unions play a crucial role in employee education, among others. In recent years, the federation has continuously promoted improvement in the quality of workers and their status to cultivate more master craftsmen and high-skilled workers. It has also organized talent training camps, helped build a system for schools that are training craftsmen across the nation, and built platforms specialized in imparting intelligent skills, boosting learning and broadening the channels of training.

In particular, with the rapid progress of the digital economy and prevalent smart-manufacturing, the federation attaches significant importance to improving digital literacy and skills of industrial workers to proficiently use new intelligent tools and adapt to the progress of new quality productive forces.

Focusing on the upgrading of manufacturing, new technologies and thereby new occupations brought by them, the federation innovatively hosts professional skills competitions, selecting master craftsmen while supporting the progress of diligent youngsters, skilled workers and hard-working personnel. Trade unions at all levels are also fully leveraging their strengths to organize skill competitions in various sectors or those related to particular positions, helping the participants share the benefits of competition.

The Wenzhou Federation of Trade Unions in Zhejiang province has hosted skills competitions for five consecutive years, all aimed at improving the skills of employees.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Empirical rigour

SIR, The national census will now include a caste survey as well. Every socio-economic data is a vital input for effective policy formulation. A progressive caste census in India must eschew tokenism and become a tool for transformative justice.

By grounding it in empirical rigour, ethical safeguards, and inclusive policymaking, we would address caste-based inequities while advancing towards the constitutional ideal of a "casteless and classless" society.

The judiciary, civil society, and marginalized communities must collaborate to ensure the census empowers and not divides the nation. And for this every political party needs to tone down partisan rhetoric and own the seminal concept of the exercise and thereafter contribute to its dispassionate interpretation

and earnest application of the guiding principles that would emerge and evolve over time. We need to use the census to create a roadmap for when caste-based reservations may no longer be needed, contingent on achieving measurable equity.

The ultimate aim ought to be towards a caste-blind governance. Address current disparities and invest in universal policies such as quality public education and healthcare, to steer away from reliance on identity-based solutions.

Yours, etc., R Narayanan, Navi Mumbai, 2 May.

CASTE CENSUS

SIR, Many of us are praising the Central government for giving its nod to a caste census. It may sound good for politics. But it is not good for human welfare in

our society. The caste census will provoke casteism among various communities, and the quota or reservation fight will increase in society, which may lead to civil war in the long run. A reservation system based on caste should not be the means to bring the back-

wards classes into the mainstream of society. The maker of our constitution, Dr. Ambedkar, introduced reservations for backwards classes for a certain period so that they could use the opportunity to come forward. But politicians made the reservation

FEELING HEAT

SIR, This refers to the editorial "Heat on us" (6 May). Climate change will hit us in a massive way when IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) announces higher temperatures than last year. February 2025 was declared the warmest February since 1901.

The National Action Plan was constituted with eight national missions to reach net-zero emissions in 2070 and the usage of renewable energy, but the government has set up an exclusive department on Climate Change and its consequences.

Each year, the temperature rises, and politicians hardly care about it, even though they are the decision-makers. In the recent state elections, as well as the Lok Sabha election, the campaign was carried out in extreme heat conditions, but nobody raised questions about climate change.

The massive landslide in Wayanad took 350 people, where politics started between two political parties, without mentioning that climate change might harm the health of the nation. In Leh, people experienced a heat wave in July 2024, and in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, the single-day rainfall became 55 per cent of the season's rainfall.

We ignore it, terming it a natural disaster, but behind all this is climate change. It is a major issue as serious as terrorism, so we cannot ignore it.

Yours, etc., Abhijit Chakraborty, Bally, 6 May.

system permanent. As a result, politics has advanced a lot, but the social and economic development of the backwards classes remains elusive even after 75 years of independence.

Yours, etc., Mihir Kanungo, Kolkata, 6 May.

Blame technology for break-up of families

BASAB DASGUPTA

Over the past several decades, the US and many other countries around the world, even India in recent years, have been undergoing a transformation from family-oriented societies into individualistic ones. There are explanations in social sciences about this change: some theories attribute this to disintegration of families resulting from divorce, economic hardship requiring both spouses working and empowerment of women to rise beyond their role as housewives.

I worked in the consumer electronics industry during my professional life; unlike the social scientists, I see a strong correlation between this social change and advances in technology. Here is my explanation of this transition based on development of new technologies in electronics.

The first sign of family breakdown was the end of nightly family dinners where family members discussed incidents in their daily lives as well as current events. This formed a strong bond. The main culprit behind the end of this practice was the microwave oven. With every person in the family having a busy individual schedule, microwave ovens provided a convenient alternative to synchronizing a time window for dinner. When a person was hungry, he/she could warm up the meal (either cooked earlier or frozen dinner) and eat alone at their convenience.

Introduction of headphones along with devices like the Sony Walkman in listening to music made it convenient for a listener to enjoy music of his own taste without bothering anyone else or seeking a consensus. However, it also created isolation. One could spend hours on this device without interacting with anyone. Miniature TVs with 6" to 9" screen sizes started to emerge around

the same time, allowing individual viewing of TV programmes.

Electronic video games captured everyone's attention. ATARI introduced games like "Pac-Man" and "Donkey-Kong" which were extremely addictive. Soon other companies such as Nintendo followed suit. Young people remained absorbed for hours playing these games by themselves with total concentration; parents did not have to worry about where their kids were but there was no more need for family-oriented games like Scrabble, Chess, various card games or board games like "Snakes and Ladders".

The most significant invention of this period was that of VCR. Apart from providing popular movies and pre-recorded home videos for home viewing, VCRs brought pornography to our bedroom. There was no longer the need to sneak into an adult movie theatre in a seedy part of town without being seen by anyone. With VCRs, one could watch any adult movie any time in the privacy and comfort of one's home. I have no doubt that they contributed significantly to unhappiness, infidelity if not break-up of marriages.

Wireless hand-held telephone receivers came along the way. There was no more need to talk loudly over the phone in the living room or kitchen where everyone could hear you. One could go to one's room and share all kinds of private and intimate thoughts with friends and relatives.

Apart from variety in home entertainment, new inventions also focused on convenience. The concept of integration became a trendy thing in the mid-eighties. "Universal remote controls" allowed control of a whole group of audio and video components by a single person using a single remote. Subsequent developments focused on physically merging separate components into one compact physical entity. The first such devices were TV/VCR combos (later replaced by TV/DVD

player combos) and "boom boxes". Sony later came up with a console integrating PlayStation and DVD player.

Invention of laptop computers with built-in DVD-players made it easy to access any video content in complete privacy anywhere inside or outside the house. The Internet provided the fuel to a full-blown explosion that ended family group activities, whether it was education or entertainment. The need to go to the library and study together was gone. Every imaginable information was available on the internet just by clicking a few buttons. A tutor or even in-person college classes seems like an unnecessary expense when all learning sessions are available on the internet. Movies and music, news, games could all be accessed on the same screen whenever and wherever.

When I left the consumer electronics industry, all companies were preoccupied in their research to integrate TVs with computers. Their goal was to come up with an all-encompassing large box in the middle of one's family room which integrated TV, DVD-player, stereo, computer, video game console, radio, telephone, clock and probably a few other accessories. There was even talk about a 3D holographic TV display where viewers could walk around the screen and see the content from various angles. Perhaps such an invention could have unified the family again. Unfortunately, no such system was ever developed by any company; I didn't even see a working prototype at Consumer Electronic shows. All devices eventually did converge, but not in a big box in the middle of our family room but in a tiny box which fits into our pockets called a "Smartphone"; it kept family members separated. Just think about it; a smartphone is a combination of TV, phone with both audio and video communication, computer terminal, calculator, camera, video camera, video

game console, timer and clock radio, road atlas, Global Positioning System, a universal remote and provides a host of other information with the help of "apps". One can even use it in the 'selfie mode' to take one's own photo without seeking help from others. Furthermore, the price is exceedingly affordable. Everyone can have one.

Evolution of social media resulted



in further isolation, especially among young people. Instead of playing with friends and neighbourhood kids or doing something outdoor now they prefer to communicate in private with their friends through texts and social media. Even for adults, a multitude of tasks, including banking, shopping, ordering food, making reservations etc. can be done online using smartphone apps, completely avoiding interactions with other human beings.

Smartphones completed the transformation of society. We no longer see a large group of people of a family enjoying themselves in a park or restaurant or movie theatre. Instead, we see everyone – adults and children alike – deeply absorbed in their cell-phones, often connected by a headphone or ear-pod. What is next? The answer is written on the wall or should I say, "on the cloud". Artificial Intelligence will gradually eliminate the need to

communicate with not just family members but all human beings we interact with and replace them with robots; our teachers, doctors, financial counsellors, spiritual guides, all agents in every service-oriented job, taxi drivers and possibly our friends as well. Instead of a society of human beings, we will be immersed among robots.

Meta/Facebook company has

already created Metaverse where one can experience a virtual world by wearing a specially designed headset with glasses and sensors.

Perhaps technology will finally

show us what the Holy men have been

saying for ages. Life on this earth is

nothing but an illusion. Just like elec-

tronic signals from a controller allows

us to "experience" the virtual world of

Metaverse, our five senses allow our

brain to experience the universe

around us by sending signals to the

brain; we assume it to be real. Howev-

er, it is just an illusion. Family, friends,

teachers, ChatGPT – none really means

anything, and we really do not need

any of them to find the ultimate

answers we seek. God is the only truth.

(The writer, a physicist who worked in industry

and academia, is a Bengali settled in America.)

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

FEW men made finer use of their wealth in his generation than did Lord Leverhulme. Port Sunlight was but one of his beneficent enterprises and in his later years his benefactions took a wider range. The London Museum which he established in Stafford House, the once beautiful London home of the Dukes of Sutherland, will be an enduring monument to him, and the national art collections are richer by many gifts that he made from the treasures that he had gathered. His tastes were remarkably catholic for a man who had started life in a small grocer's shop, and his home was rich in pictures and richer in the most splendid examples of Chinese art in pottery and painting. A man of notable originality of mind in everything that he touched, Lord Leverhulme had proved himself of late years a redoubtable controversialist with the Labour Party and an able opponent of Socialism, in the political sense of the word. His life was an exposition of practical socialism in the sense of service to the community about him.

NEWS ITEMS

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

("TIMES" SPECIAL SERVICE.)

SIMLA, MAY 6.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Vicaji Fardunji-Taraporevala, and the Hon. Mr. Justice Mirza Ali Akbar Khan have been appointed to act as Additional Judges of the Bombay High Court for one year with effect from June 11 and 9 respectively.

MISFEASANCE CASE

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF 80 PAGES

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

DELHI, MAY 6.

THE misfeasance proceedings brought against Mr. C. M. DeSouza, a late director of the Development Corporation of India (in liquidation) by Mr. S. B. Billimoria, the official liquidator of the company, came up for hearing before Mr. D. Johnstone, District and Sessions Judge, Delhi.

Mr. C. M. DeSouza had filed a written statement of 80 pages, and, on the day of hearing, a further affidavit challenging the statements made by the official liquidator. He prayed for six months' time to enable him to get the evidence of Mr. R. G. H. Boulton and Mr. G. A. Moncrieff, late directors of the Company, both of whom are at present in England.

Mr. Ram Kishore, vakil, on behalf of the Official Liquidator, stated that it would take some time to obtain copies of the written statement and affidavit filed by the defendant and also to get instructions from the official liquidator's solicitors in Bombay. The District Judge thereupon fixed June 5 for the next hearing, when arguments will be heard by him and issues framed, if possible.

REHOBOTH TROUBLE

SELF-GOVERNMENT POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF REVOLT

CAPE TOWN, MAY 6.

GENERAL Herzog, the South African Premier, stated in the Assembly that he had received a report from the Administrator of South West Africa regarding the Rehoboth situation.

Reference is to the revolt last month in the village of Rehoboth (South-West Africa).

The Government was sending a judge to investigate the grievances of the natives and also the possibility of giving them self-government under guidance.

The Premier mentioned that he had received a proposal for a round-table conference with the representatives of the Indian Government.

He hoped shortly to negotiate with the Governor-General of Portuguese East Africa with reference to the renewal of the Delagoa Convention.

The Mines and Works Bill, which lays down a colour bar against natives and Asiatics has passed its second reading, and the Bill has been referred to a Select Committee.

The Minister of Mines, the Hon. Mr. Beyers, deprecated the speeches of Gen. Smuts and other Oppositionists as tending to cause disaffection in the native mind, and argued that the Bill only enforced the colour bar which was previously embodied in the regulations of the Transvaal Free State, but which had been found to be ultra vires. He promised to give careful consideration to the extent the Bill should be applied to the Cape Province.

The Asiatic aspect was hardly discussed in the latter stages of the debate.

Trump risks falling into 'airpower' trap

CHARLES WALDORF

In the first 100 days of his second term, U.S. President Donald Trump has shown a willingness to lean on airpower when his administration decides that military force is necessary abroad.

So far, the second Trump administration has launched limited airstrikes in Somalia and carried out a weeks-long air campaign against the Iranian-aligned Houthis who rule most of Yemen. The president has also threatened direct strikes against Iran itself should talks on a new nuclear deal collapse.

This turn to airpower for Trump makes sense to me. Airpower is cheap when compared with ground wars, and it usually comes with fewer casualties for those conducting the strikes. This helps explain why U.S. leaders, including Trump as a self-proclaimed "anti-war president," typically find it attractive. But if the Trump administration is not careful, it could fall into what military strategists informally call the "airpower trap." This happens when the stated objectives of military force are too big for airpower alone to achieve, potentially leading to a face-saving escalation of conflict that could – if history is a guide – draw in ground forces from the U.S. or their local allies.

U.S. presidents such as Lyndon Johnson, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama all fell into this trap. In Vietnam, the Balkans and Syria, respectively, all ended up with far bigger wars than they bargained for, with consequences for civilian casualties, international peace and damage to America's reputation abroad.

As an expert on U.S. national security policy and the Middle East region, I believe the Trump administration is in danger of falling into the airpower trap in Yemen and could potentially do the same in Iran should

objectives. There are reasons to believe that conditions in Yemen mean that Trump, too, could be falling into a similar trap.

Trump has adopted an airpower-only strategy to "completely annihilate" the Houthis, a powerful rebel movement that all but won the recent Yemeni civil war. The proximate cause of the air campaign, a policy inaugurated by the Biden administration and expanded dramatically by Trump, is to restore the free flow of shipping in the Red Sea that the Houthis have disrupted by force to protest Israel's ongoing war in Gaza.

The early signs are that this air campaign isn't going well.

Despite the U.S. burning through finite munitions supplies at a cost of US\$1 billion to bomb at least 800 sites since March 15, the Houthis are undeterred and the volume of Red Sea shipping remains as depressed as ever. Houthi attacks on U.S. ships and Israel continue. A Houthi missile narrowly missed Israel's Ben-Gurion airport on May 4. In fact, the direct attacks on the Houthis and the rapidly growing casualty count among Yemeni civilians from the Trump administration's bombing campaign appear to be strengthening the Houthis' political position in Yemen. In a particularly shocking case, U.S. proxies fail on both strategic and humanitarian terms, leading to further escalation, strategic quagmires for the U.S., and loss of life and political sovereignty for the people under attack. South Vietnam was an instructive example.

Riven by corruption, poor governance, weakness and political infighting, the South Vietnamese army and government proved so ineffective at fighting the North Vietnamese that Johnson decided to launch a ground war once U.S. airpower failed.

The humanitarian crisis from the brutal bombing campaign by the Saudi-led coalition against the Houthis in the late 2010s had a similar effect. Airpower played a big part then, too. The Saudi coalition, supported by the U.S., engaged in some 25,000 air raids against the Houthis, killing or maiming approximately 19,000 civilians. Yet despite such overwhelming force, the Houthis kept seizing territory and eventually won the civil war, according to experts.

They have been the country's de facto rulers ever since. Now, Trump is exploring options to further escalate to defeat the Houthis. Reports indicate his administration is considering arming, training and enabling anti-Houthi resistance fighters who are loosely affiliated with Yemen's government in exile to launch ground operations.

Proxies are a common tool U.S. leaders turn to when caught in the airpower trap. Sometimes those proxies fulfill American policy objectives, such as the Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, which helped the U.S. defeat the Islamic state caliphate in 2019. Often, U.S. proxies fail on both strategic and humanitarian terms, leading to further escalation, strategic quagmires for the U.S., and loss of life and political sovereignty for the people under attack. South Vietnam was an instructive example.

Riven by corruption, poor governance, weakness and political infighting, the South Vietnamese army and government proved so ineffective at fighting the North Vietnamese that Johnson decided to launch a ground war once U.S. airpower failed.

Today, the anti-Houthi resistance in Yemen looks a lot more like the South Vietnamese government than the Kurdish YPG. According to a 2025

report from the Soufan Center, a security think tank, the anti-Houthi forces are poorly trained and considered incapable of pulling off victories over the Houthis without major U.S. support. Meanwhile, the anti-Houthi resistance consists of an estimated 85,000 fighters, compared with some 350,000 for the Houthis.

Absent continuing the air war or

escalating it into a more all-encompassing conflict, U.S. officials can still pursue diplomacy in order to try to find a political solution to the Yemen conflict. Despite the Trump's administration public threats, the U.S. is already negotiating with the Houthis' main sponsor, Iran.

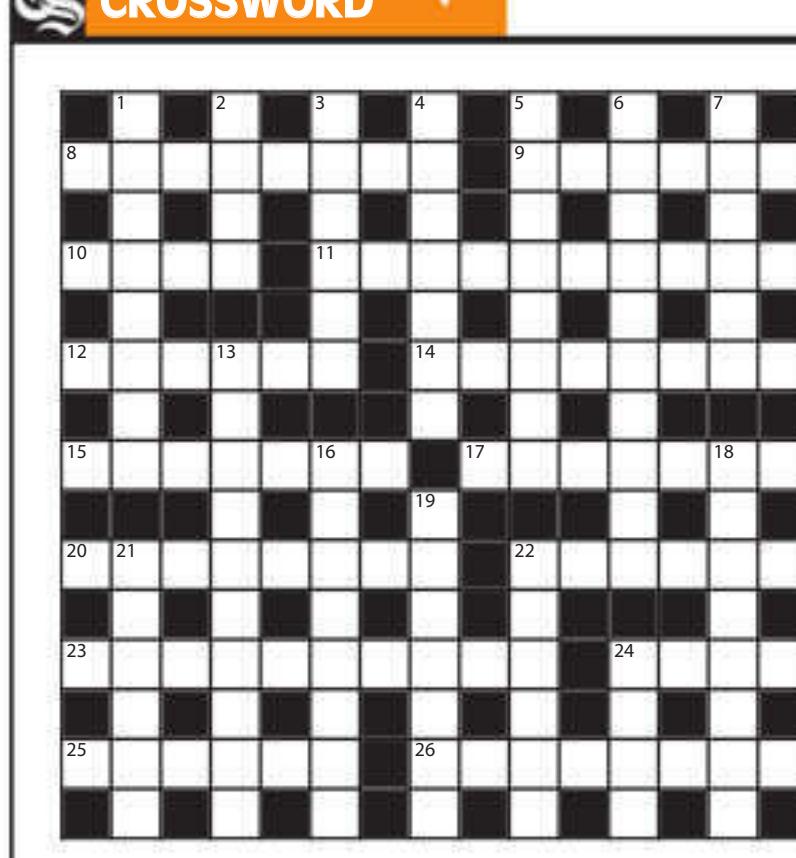
For their part, the Houthis continue to insist that they will stop attacking ships in the Red Sea if the U.S.-backed Israeli war in Gaza halts, something that happened during the recent Gaza ceasefire.

The Trump administration might consider seeking alternatives, such as direct or indirect talks, if it wants to avoid getting stuck in a widening conflict in Yemen. History is full of examples of what happens when airpower takes on a logic of its own.

(The writer is Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Wake Forest University. This article was published on www.thecconversation.com)

NO-293129

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 8 Be master of hot early swing (4,4)
- 9 Tug tune is up for associates (6)
- 10 Music genre heard racing across the Atlantic (4)
- 11 Blues or pop singer catches finale from The Jam (10)
- 12 Stride number about crush (4,2)
- 14 Single backing track about German with sin (8)

15 Funk from a person by boisterous area of town (7)

- 17 Rag time ally abroad welcomes, giving a wave (7)

20 Rocking A-side he includes very tacky (8)

- 22 Charm of baroque tube euphony in extremis! (6)

23 Love loud tango – what about gospel's wrong? (3,3,4)

- 24 Kelvin and Duke, say, pirouetting to bop (4)

25 Singer's feature in garage thus captivates you (6)

- 26 Did dub blend, one in an innovative style (8)

4 E.g. a little Calypso number turned up, keeping variable speed (7)

- 5 Nothing in set due to change with ten DJs (8)

K'taka politicians extend full support to Operation Sindoor

Terror has no place in our land, India will respond with strength and unity: CM Siddaramaiah

LAKSHMANA VENKAT KUCHI
BENGALURU, 7 MAY



Cutting across party lines, political leaders from Karnataka congratulated the armed forces and extended their full support for the 'Operation Sindoor' - a strike against terror apparatus in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, in the wee hours of Wednesday morning when the rest of India and Pakistan were sleeping.

Karnataka Chief Minister S Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, BJP president BY Vijayendra spoke with one voice on the Indian armed forces' answer to the ghastly and cowardly killing of Indian tourists, including from Karnataka, at Pahalgam by Pakistani terrorists on 22 April.

In a post on X, Mr. Sid-

daramaiah saluted the extraordinary courage and heroic action of the Indian armed forces. "Karnataka joins the nation in expressing unwavering solidarity with our forces. We are proud of your valour, sacrifice, and unflinching commitment to protect our sovereignty. Terror has no place in our

land. India will respond with strength and unity," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar hailed the strike as "a befitting reply to the cowardly Pahalgam terror attack," and said the Congress party fully stands with the defence forces. "We are proud of our defence forces. Terror has no place in our

Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy directed the Endowment Department Commissioner to organise special prayers in all temples in honour of the Indian Army.

We salute them for protecting our nation. The Congress party fully stands behind them," Shivakumar said.

"We cancelled a protest in Raichur against the price rise given the retaliatory attacks. We don't want to do politics on this issue and we strongly stand behind the defence forces and the government," Shivakumar said.

State BJP president, BY Vijayendra too lauded the defence forces and said: "With Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army has begun avenging the targeted killings of Hindus in Pahalgam."

Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy directed the Endowment Department Commissioner to organise special prayers in all temples in honour of the Indian army.

The Janata Dal (Secular) also posted a message on X, welcoming the counter-attack and wishing the armed forces safety and success in this mission. "May the Indian Army succeed in this fight against terrorist forces. Along with the unconditional support of its citizens, the entire world stands with India today," the JD (S) said in the post.

K'taka: Pahalgam victims' families happy with Operation Sindoor



Channaveerappa's son Bhushan from Bengaluru was shot dead by terrorists on 22 April. His wife Sujata and their child survived the attack.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, 7 MAY

However, the loss is irreparable for them, but the Indian armed action on Pakistani soil, killing terrorists, and destroying their training camps there, is the right thing to do, and the relatives thanked the army and the government for their timely action.

Welcoming the retaliatory action, Bhushan's father Channaveerappa said: "The

name, Operation Sindoor is correct because they (terrorists) had removed the *tilak* of many women. That's a good step. The government has done a good job and they have also taken the support of many countries."

His son Bhushan from Bengaluru was shot dead by terrorists on 22 April. His wife Sujata and their child survived the attack.

Channaveerappa said: "What Pakistan has done, is bad. They are sheltering terrorists in hideouts within their country, giving them money. They are supported and trained by Pakistan's army. Modi has taken this message to different countries and explained Pakistan's dirty mode of operation."

Meanwhile, Sumathi, the mother of Manjunath Rao, hailing from Bengaluru, who was also shot dead in the same attack, said she had faith in Prime Minister Modi. She said she did not want her son's sacrifice to go waste.

Chief Minister Stalin leads Tamil Nadu in rallying support for Operation Sindoor

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 7 MAY

Nadu stands resolute."

At times of war, the DMK has been in the forefront of supporting the defence forces and Tamil Nadu under the Karunanidhi government in 1971 – Bangladesh Liberation war, 1999 Kargil war had given the highest donation for the country.

Versatile actor and Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) party president Kamal Hassan applauded Operation Sindoor as a decisive strategic military action of a strong nation and made it clear that the country could not be divided by cowardly acts of terror.

"A proud India stands united with its armed forces. This is the resolute response of a strong nation that will not be divided by cowardly acts of terror. I applaud the decisive and strategic military

action taken by the Government of India. *Jai Hind*," he wrote on his 'X' handle.

"A royal salute to the armed forces acting in defence of the nation," was how actor and Tamila Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay reacted to the launch of the military operation. Superstar Rajinikanth also took to 'X', to compliment Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for the offensive. "The fighter's fight begins... No stopping until the mission is accomplished! The entire nation is with you."

Former Chief Minister and AIADMK general Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) commanded the armed forces for the precise execution of operation Sindoor in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 7 MAY

Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy will lead a rally expressing solidarity with the Indian Army tomorrow following Operation Sindoor. Reddy held an emergency meeting today and emphasised on sending out a strong message that the entire state was standing with the Indian Army. Meanwhile, police in Hyderabad were put on high alert. All leave of essential service staff and foreign tours have been cancelled. Security at foreign missions in Hyderabad would be beefed up and tight vigil to be maintained near IT companies. In order to curb misinformation, a special cell will be formed.

The chief minister called an emergency meeting with all officials at the Integrated



Command and Control Centre (ICCC) and reviewed all security preparations post Operation Sindoor. The security measures to safeguard all key installations of the central and state governments were reviewed. Ministers and officials were asked to be accessible and leaves of essential staff were cancelled. Foreign tours were also cancelled. The chief minister also ordered the immediate detention of illegal residents of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Security was being stepped up in district headquarters and sensitive zones, foreign missions in the state capitals and IT companies. An alert was sounded over cybersecurity and the spreading of misinformation. He also warned state government employees against giving "unnecessary statements" in media or social media. The chief minister directed

police to engage peace committees wherever required. History sheeters and habitual offenders will be specially monitored and there will be zero tolerance towards disruption of law and order. He also directed that emergency medicines, blood banks should maintain sufficient stocks and the availability of hospital beds should be monitored.

TENDER

Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana
e-Tender Notice
e-Tenders are invited for the Purchase of Mineral Feed Ingredients. For more details including closing/opening date/time of bids, detailed specifications, terms & conditions etc. logon to www.eproc.punjab.gov.in and https://gadvasu.in/tender_notice.
Note: Any corrigendum(s) will be published on above websites only
Sd/- Comptroller, GADVASU

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:
1. **NIT-12 – Name of work :** Annual P-way zone for maintenance of track in the section of SSE/P/Way/GZB-II under ADEN/GZB jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-II for the year 2025-26. Approx. cost of work :- As per NIT or IREPS.
Earnest Money to be deposited : As per NIT or IREPS.
2. **NIT-13 – Name of work :** Annual P-way zone for maintenance of track in the section of SSE/P/Way/GZB-II under ADEN/GZB jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-II for the year 2025-26. Approx. cost of work :- As per NIT or IREPS.
Earnest Money to be deposited : As per NIT or IREPS.
3. **NIT-14 – Name of work :** Replacement of steel girder bridges >9.15 m & upto 12.20 m to PSC slab in the section of ADEN/SMQ and ADEN/GZB and Replacement of steel girder bridge >6.15 TO 9.15 to 12.0 m to psc slab in the section of ADEN/MUT under Sr. DEN-II. Approx. cost of work :- As per NIT or IREPS.
Earnest Money to be deposited : As per NIT or IREPS.
4. **Date & Time of opening of tender :** 30.05.2025, 10:00 Hrs.
5. **Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen :** www.ireps.gov.in
• The tenderer must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.
No.: 128-W/2806-Tender Notice/NIT-12, 13 & 14-25-26-W-II Dated: 07.05.2025 1363/25
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)
No.2025/RS(WT-14)/19/tender/560 dated : 06.05.2025
Indigenous e-Tender No.WTA-560 opening on 29.05.2025 for procurement of Semi finished LHB Axles for FIAT-IR Bogies.
Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for procurement of Semi-finished LHB Axles for FIAT-IR Bogie to RCF drawing No. LW02149 alt - c and IRS - 1695 with corrigendum No.1 to 4 or latest. The interested bidders are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for further details, downloading of the tender documents and submission of their e-bids. Any further corrigendum to this tender will be uploaded on the website <http://ireps.gov.in> only and not in print media.

DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (M) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)
RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001 Tel No.011-23073191
E-mail ID: drsm@railmin.gov.in
1347/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

C.G. STATE CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LTD.
CBD Commercial Complex, 6th Floor Sec-21 Nava Raipur,
Atal Nagar (C.G) 492002
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR GROUP INSURANCE OF EMPLOYEES AND ASSET INSURANCE SERVICE.
(2025-26)
NO/INSURANCE/F-1/665 / 2025
Nava Raipur Atal Nagar Date: 07-06-2025

CGMARKFED hereby inviting e-tender through GeM Portal from Insurance Companies for Group Personal accident insurance and fire insurance of stock of paddy and gunnies lying in Open and in Godown, computers, accessories peripherals, D.G.Sets and CCTV Camera etc. from standard fire & special perils with STFI & RSMD including risk from seasonal and unseasonal rains, theft and burglary and fire at various locations/ offices of MARKFED, paddy storage centres and paddy procurement centres (SOCIETIES) etc. in Chhattisgarh state for FY 2025-26 from 06.05.2025 to 05-06-2025 till 12.00 pm
The Details and conditions of Tenders is available in Gem website <http://gem.gov.in> with Bid number GEM/2025/B/6106504. All interested bidders may register in GeM portal. Bid document, terms and conditions and other tender details are available in Gem website <http://gem.gov.in>. Any technical query regarding the tender can be addressed at :
Email - helpdesk-gem@gov.in
Helpline No-1800 419 3436 & 1800 102 3436
Email: mf_ctrroom_raipur@gov.in
General Manager (Marketing) CGMARKFED

Mock drills and blackouts conducted across country

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

The last time India carried out surgical strikes, Congress leaders wanted proof. Now, evidence has arrived before everyone even ahead of them asking for proof'

the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, that more or less is the template of BJP criticism of Congress regime to paint it a weak government at best and to insinuate other motive

to the then Congress government in its handling of terrorism and terrorist attacks.

Ashoka said that if Operation Sindoor like counter-strike, had been carried out after the Mumbai Terror attacks, the issue would have been resolved then and there.

Addressing a news conference in the city, the senior BJP MLA said, on Operation Sindoor, that eliminating terrorists in retaliation for the killing of innocent Hindu tourists is a big blow to Pakistan. "India has shown it can strike even on Pakistani soil. If such a

counterstrike had been carried out during the Mumbai terror attacks, the issue would have been resolved then and there. As proof, now, evidence has arrived before everyone even ahead of them asking for proof," Ashoka said.

"Will the Congress leaders still search for evidence or keep chanting peace *mantras*?"

Which side is the Congress party, chanting peace *mantras*, and talking about peace during times of war, this is an insult to the nation," the BJP leader said.

While Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge supports the Central government

carried out surgical strikes, Congress leaders wanted proof. Now, evidence has arrived before everyone even ahead of them asking for proof," Ashoka said.

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World leaders urge India, Pakistan to explore diplomacy to defuse tensions

The world cannot afford a military confrontation between India & Pakistan, says UN secretary general Antonio Guterres; I hope it ends quickly, says Donald Trump

SHAHID K ABBAS

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

World leaders on Wednesday urged both India and Pakistan to exercise calm and maximum restraint in the wake of Operation Sindoar carried out by Indian armed forces targeting terror camps in Pakistan and PoK.

Expressing concerns over the escalation of tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours, the world leaders urged both sides to resort to the option of dialogue and diplomacy to defuse tensions.

US President Donald Trump, who was among the first to react described the situation as a "shame" and hoped that the tensions ended quickly.

"I am monitoring the sit-



uation between India and Pakistan closely. I echo @POTUS's (President of the United States's) comments earlier today that this hopefully ends quickly and will continue to engage both Indian and Pakistani leadership towards a peaceful resolution," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a post on social media platform X.

Donald Trump also expressed hope for a swift

concerned about the current developments. China opposes all forms of terrorism. We call on both India and Pakistan to prioritize peace and stability, remain calm and restrained, and avoid taking actions that further complicate the situation."

Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it was deeply concerned about the deepening military confrontation between India and Pakistan and called for both countries to show restraint. In a statement posted on the Foreign Ministry's website, Russia said it condemns all forms of terrorism.

China also urged India and Pakistan to exercise restraint amid rising tensions.

A statement issued by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said: "China expresses regret over India's military actions this morning and is

and international border. He calls for maximum military restraint from both countries."

"The world cannot afford a

military confrontation between India and Pakistan," it further said.

Urging both India and Pakistan to show restraint France Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barat said in an interview on TF1 television: "We understand India's desire to protect itself against the scourge of terrorism, but we obviously call on both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint to avoid escalation and, of course, to protect civilians."

Reacting to the operation, Japan's chief cabinet secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi in a statement said: "In regard to the terrorist act that occurred in Kashmir on April 22, our country firmly condemns such acts of terrorism. Furthermore,

we express strong concern that this situation may lead to further retaliatory exchanges and escalate into a full-scale military conflict.....For the peace and stability of South Asia, we strongly urge both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and stabilise the situation through dialogue."

Qatar, in a statement issued by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said it "follows with great concern the continuing escalation between India and Pakistan" and called for "resolving the crisis through diplomatic channels."

The statement further said it "emphasizes the urgent need to keep communication channels open between India and Pakistan."

Also reacting to the operation Turkey urged India and Pakistan to act with common sense adding that India's

latest military action created the risk of an "all-out war."

UAE Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in a statement, urged India and Pakistan to show restraint, reduce tensions and prevent further escalation.

"His Highness reaffirmed that diplomacy and dialogue remain the most effective means of peacefully resolving crises, and achieving the shared aspirations of nations for peace, stability, and prosperity," the statement said.

Israel's ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, said in a statement that Israel supports India's right to self-defence.

In a post on X, Mr Azar said, "Israel supports India's right for self-defence. Terrorists should know there's no place to hide from their heinous crimes against the innocent."

NYT calls Pahalgam attackers 'terrorists' after backlash

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

As India executed 'Operation Sindoar,' a notable shift was observed in the editorial tone of prominent American daily *The New York Times*, which for the first time referred to the perpetrators of the Pahalgam massacre as "terrorists" in its headline—a marked departure from its earlier usage of softer terms such as "militants" and "gunmen."

The front-page headline on the NYT's website stated: "India Strikes Pakistan Two Weeks After Terrorist Attack in Kashmir," signalling a distinct editorial change that has come amid growing criticism over the paper's earlier coverage.

The Pahalgam attack, which occurred on 22 April, left 26 people dead, including 25 Indian tourists and one Nepali citizen, when they were gunned down in cold blood.

Trump says only 21 hostages held by Hamas in Gaza now believed to be alive

ACENIES

WASHINGTON, 7 MAY



President Donald Trump said Tuesday that three hostages held by Hamas in Gaza have died, leaving only 21 believed to be still living.

"As of today, it's 21, three have died," Trump said of the hostages being held by Hamas, noting until recently it had been 24 people believed to be living.

He did not elaborate on the identities of those now believed to be dead, nor how he had come to learn of their deaths.

"There's 21, plus a lot of dead bodies," Trump said.

Ukrainian territory for an unspecified amount of time, in a bid to recover the hostages and try to fulfill its war aims of destroying Hamas.

If implemented, the move would vastly expand Israel's operations there and likely draw fierce international opposition.

Separately, the State Department said Tuesday that the US embassy helped 17 US citizens and legal permanent residents leave Gaza on Monday.

"We thank our partners in the Israeli and Jordanian governments who made this departure possible," the department said.

Ukrainian drones keep targeting Moscow as foreign leaders arrive for Red Square parade

ACENIES

DEIR AL-BALAH, 7 MAY

Attacks by Ukrainian long-range drones caused flight disruption at Moscow's main airports for a third straight day on Wednesday, authorities said, as Russia prepared to receive the Chinese president and other foreign leaders for the annual Victory Day military parade in Red Square.

Russian flag carrier Aeroflot cancelled more than 100 flights to and from Moscow, while more than 140 flights were delayed.

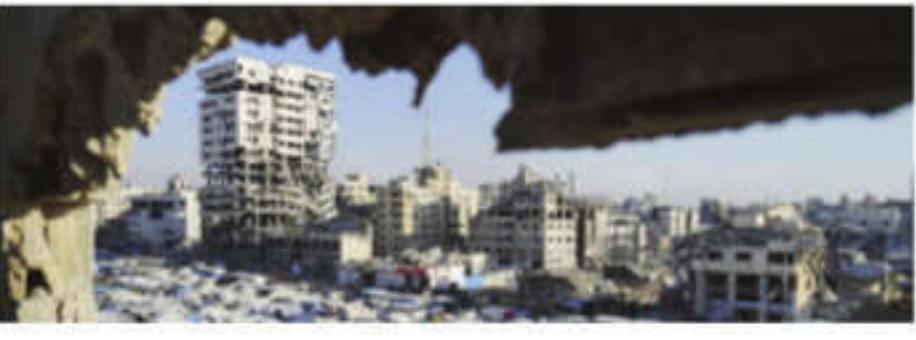
Israeli strikes across Gaza kill at least 59 as country prepares to ramp up its offensive

that the school in central Gaza has been struck.

An early morning strike on another school turned shelter in Gaza City killed 16 people, according to officials at Al-Ahli Hospital, while strikes on targets in other areas killed at least 16 others.

A large column of smoke rose and fires pierced the dark skies above the school shelter in Bureij, a built-up urban refugee camp. Paramedics and rescuers rushed to pull people out from the blaze.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the strikes. Israel blames



Hamas for the death toll because it operates from civilian infrastructure, including schools.

The new bloodshed comes days after Israel approved a plan to intensify its operations in the Palestinian enclave, which would include seizing Gaza, holding on to captured territories, forcibly displacing Palestinians to southern Gaza

and taking control of aid distribution along with private security companies.

Israel is also calling up tens of thousands of reserve soldiers to carry out the plan. Israel says the plan will be gradual and will not be implemented until after US President Donald Trump wraps up his visit to the region later this month.

Senior cardinal urges conclave voters to pick a pope who seeks unity ahead of secret voting ritual

ACENIES

VATICAN CITY, 7 MAY

With all the pomp, drama and solemnity that the Catholic Church can muster, 133 cardinals on Wednesday began centuries-old rituals to elect a successor to Pope Francis, celebrating a morning Mass before opening the most geographically diverse conclave in the faith's 2,000-year history.

The dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re (photo), presided over the service, urging the voters to set aside all personal interests and

find a pope who prizes unity. The world today needs a leader who can awaken consciences, he said.

From the altar of St. Peter's Basilica, Re prayed that the cardinals can agree "on the pope that our time needs," as he offered a final set of marching orders before they enter the Sistine Chapel later Wednesday to begin the secret voting.

Hailing from 70 countries, the cardinals are being sequestered from the outside world, their cellphones surrendered and airwaves around the Vatican jammed to prevent all communica-

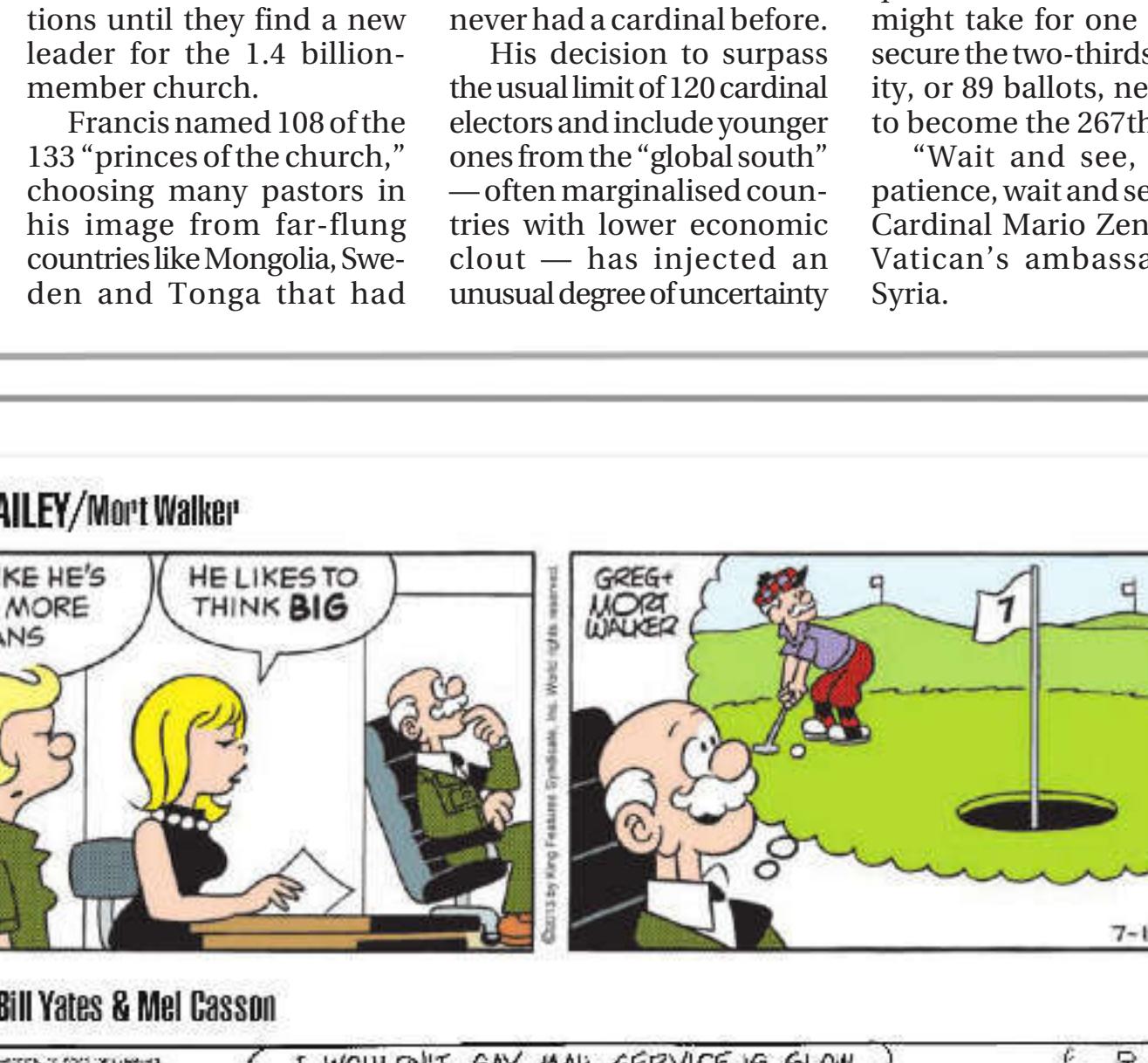
tions until they find a new leader for the 1.4 billion-member church.

Francis named 108 of the 133 "princes of the church," choosing many pastors from the "global south" — often marginalised countries with lower economic clout — has injected an unusual degree of uncertainty

in a process that is always full of mystery and suspense, with smoke signals telling the world if a pope has been elected or not.

Many cardinals hadn't met one another until last week and lamented they needed more time to get to know each other, raising questions about how long it might take for one man to secure the two-thirds majority, or 89 ballots, necessary to become the 267th pope.

"Wait and see, a little patience, wait and see," said Cardinal Mario Zenari, the Vatican's ambassador to Syria.



US top court allows Trump ban on transgender members of military to take effect, for now

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, 7 MAY

The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed President Donald Trump's administration to enforce a ban on transgender people in the military, while legal challenges proceed.

The court acted in the dispute over a policy that presumptively disqualifies transgender people from military service and could lead to the expulsion of experienced, decorated officers.

The court's three liberal justices said they would have kept the policy on hold. Neither the justices in the majority or dissent explained their

votes, which is not uncommon in emergency appeals.

Just after beginning his second term in January, Trump moved aggressively to roll back the rights of transgender people.

Among the Republican president's actions was an executive order that claims the sexual identity of transgender service members "conflicts with a soldier's commitment to an honourable, truthful, and disciplined lifestyle, even in one's personal life" and is harmful to military readiness.

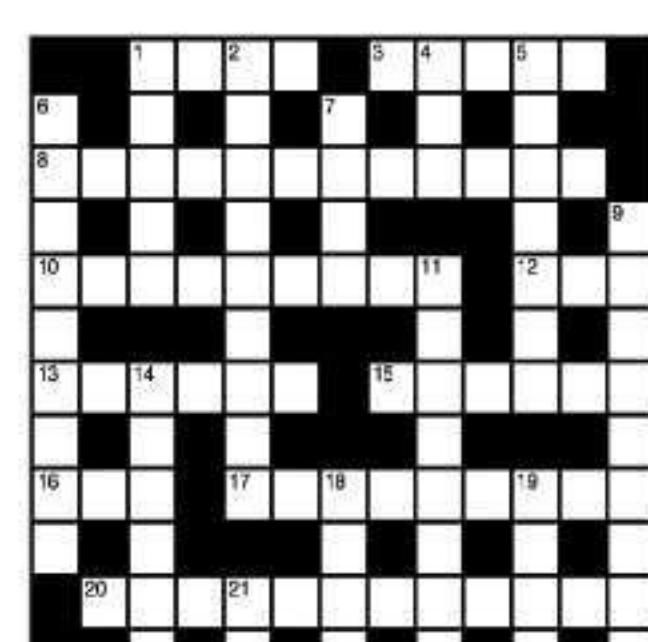
In response, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a policy in February that

gave the military services 30 days to figure out how they would seek out and identify transgender service members to remove them from the force. Those actions had been stalled by the lawsuits.

"No More Trans @DoD," Hegseth wrote in a post on X following Tuesday's Supreme Court order. Earlier in the day, before the court acted, Hegseth said that his department is leaving weakness behind. "No more pronouns," he told a special operations forces conference in Tampa. "No more dudes in dresses. We're done with that s—."

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Occupied all of (4)
3 Concubine (5)
8 Extremely painful (12)
10 Final demand (9)
12 Flying mammal (6)
15 Take in (load) (6)
16 Curves (3)
17 Expert on medicinal plants (6)
20 Between stars (12)
22 Perhaps (5)
23 Prohibition (4)

DOWN
1 Aspici (5)
2 Braggart (9)
4 Remove the entrails from (3)
5 Dignity (7)
6 Unmethodical (9)
7 Jauntily (7)
9 Prescribed by law (5)
11 Metallic element (9)
14 Circular building (7)
18 Skin eruption (4)
19 Ice house (5)
21 Recede (3)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD
ACROSS 1 Crash hell, 2 Miser, 3 Avarice, 4 Skifful, 5 Niece, 6 Level-head, 7 Study, 8 Friction, 9 Amber, 10 Huckle, 11 Friend, 12 Fiend, 13 Metal, 14 Friction, 15 Ambers, 16 Salina, 17 Huckle, 18 Sulfur, 19 Canoe, 20 Attic, 21 Fraying, 22 Thick, 23 Fame, 24 Canoe, 25 Prohibition (4)

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

FLIGHT INQUIRY

54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry):

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

23868836, 23865181

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

Haryana Roadways 23861262

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

Himachal Roadways 2371473, 23325320

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

Guru Tegh Bahadur

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

Port 011-25671580; Terminal I-

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

8 25671576, Palam Road

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

25671579, 1800180388

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

23864470

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

U.P. Roadways 23868709

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

23866262

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

23866262

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

23866262

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

THUMBNAILS

Coal India Q4 profit up 12 per cent, dividend ₹5.15: Government-owned Coal India on Wednesday reported a 12 per cent growth in its consolidated net profit at Rs 9,604 crore in the January-March quarter of financial year 2024-25, compared with the corresponding figure of Rs 8,572 crore in the same quarter of the previous financial year. The coal giant's Board of Directors have recommended a payment of final dividend at the rate of Rs 5.15 per share for the financial year 2024-25, subject to approval in the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the company. The dividend would be paid within 30 days from the date of declaration.

CII partners with ITC Hotels and EHL: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with ITC Hotels and EHL, will bridge academia and the hospitality industry through the 18-month VET by EHL Swiss Professional Diploma Programme. This programme has impacted over 800 students, with full placement success, setting a benchmark for industry-led professional education in India.

Prestige Estates to invest ₹10,000 cr in Delhi-NCR: Realty firm Prestige Estates Projects Ltd will invest around Rs 10,000 crore over the next six years to develop a 62.5-acre township at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh as to meet the surge in housing demand in Delhi-NCR. Bengaluru-based Prestige Group announced its entry into Delhi-NCR's residential market. It is already developing a commercial project comprising hotels and office spaces at Delhi's Aerocity.

Samony's 'Atelier' launched: Samony Ceramics launched its flagship 'Atelier' showroom in Rajouri Garden, Delhi, strengthening its presence in the premium tile, bathware and adhesives market. Designed as an experience centre, it caters to architects, designers, and homeowners seeking high-end solutions.

'Obesity clinic to empower health & transform lives': To decrease the chronic burden of obesity in India, the Cabinet Minister of Food Processing Industries launched a dedicated obesity clinic at Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj, Delhi on Wednesday. On the occasion, Paswan said, "The initiative will provide Delhites with access to specialised care to empower health & transform their lives."

Sensex, Nifty end higher post 'Operation Sindoor'

The Sensex closed up 105 points (0.13 per cent) at 80,746, and the Nifty gained 0.14 per cent to finish at 24,414, reclaiming the 24,400 level

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, 7 MAY

Despite high volatility during the trading session on Wednesday, Indian stock markets managed to close in the green.

The Sensex erased all the early losses and closed with a gain of 105 points, or 0.13 per cent at 80,746.

Similarly, the Nifty closed the intra-day trading session with a 0.14 per cent gain at 24,414, reclaiming the crucial 24,400 mark.

"Regarding Nifty, the highest open interest on the call side is concentrated at the 24,500 and 24,400 strike prices, while the highest open interest on the put side is seen at 24,300 and 24,400," said Sundar Kewat of Ashika Institutional Equity.

The Put-Call Ratio (PCR) stands at 0.98, indicating a relatively balanced market sentiment, he added.

The markets opened on a weak note, with early losses triggered by uncertainty in the region. However, confidence returned as the day progressed.

The recovery came as easing global trade tensions,



the finalisation of a free trade agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom, and strong foreign inflows helped offset concerns stemming from rising geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan.

Support from key sectors such as auto, real estate, and metals helped the indices recover, turning the mood positive by mid-session.

Tata Motors led the rally on the Sensex with a strong 5.2 per cent jump, followed by Bajaj Finance, which gained 2.02 per cent.

Eicher Motors rose 1.41 per cent, matching the gains of Adani Ports, while Titan

added 1.27 per cent.

The other notable gainers on the index include Eternal (formerly Zomato), Mahindra and Mahindra, Tata Steel and more.

On the losing side, Asian Paints fell the most, shedding 4 per cent. Sun Pharma declined by 1.95 per cent, ITC lost 1.3 per cent, Nestle India dropped 1.06 per cent, and Reliance Industries slipped 1.01 per cent. Broader markets also showed strong recovery. After suffering sharp losses in the previous session, both the Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap indices each rose around 1.5 per cent, recovering from previous session losses. The Put-Call Ratio stood at 0.98, indicating balanced sentiment.

posting gains of around 1.5 per cent.

Among the sectoral indices, all sectors ended in the green, except for FMCG, pharma, and healthcare.

Leading the gains were auto, media, reality, and consumer durables, each rising over 1 per cent. Meanwhile, market volatility remained elevated as the India VIX - also known as the fear index - rose 3.58 per cent to end at 19.

Godrej consumer Q4 profit jumps 65 per cent to ₹432 cr

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, 7 MAY

The company posted 6 per cent overall volume growth in Q4, with 4 per cent growth in India and 5 per cent in Indonesia

sales in constant currency terms and 23 per cent in rupee terms, on a YoY basis.

Sales in Latin America and other countries grew in constant currency terms, by 2 per cent, but declined by 11 per cent in rupee terms, on a YoY basis.

The company registered a volume growth of 6 per cent in the fourth quarter, while its standalone business recorded an underlying volume growth of 4 per cent and its sales grew by 8 per cent year-on-year (YoY).

The company's Indonesia business underlying volume grew by 5 per cent and sales grew by 1 per cent in rupee terms and 1 per cent in constant currency terms, on a YoY basis.

Business in Africa, USA, and the Middle East recorded 12 per cent growth in organic

in the same period last year. For FY25, the company recorded a net profit of Rs 1,896.10 crore (up by 63.8 per cent YoY) and net sales of Rs 14,284.81 crore (up by 2.2 per cent YoY).

As company statement quoted GCPL MD & CEO Sudhir Sitapati saying, "We delivered a sequentially improving performance in Q4 FY 2025, despite market conditions remaining the same. Our consolidated organic volumes for Q4 FY25 grew by 6 per cent, led by the India business growing volumes at 4 per cent and Indonesia growing volumes at 5 per cent. This led to full-year organic volume growth delivery at 4 per cent for our consolidated business, 5 per cent for India and 6 per cent for Indonesia. Our Consolidated organic revenue growth for Q4 and FY 2025 stood at 7 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively".

The company posted a pre-tax profit of Rs 639.41 crore in Q4 FY25 as against a pre-tax loss of Rs 1,684.47 crore posted

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Amid a projected global surge in demand for climate adaptation and resilience solutions -- estimated to reach between \$0.5 and \$1.3 trillion by 2030 -- India has emerged as a standout market, offering a \$24 billion investment opportunity, a new report said on Wednesday.

As climate risks continue to intensify worldwide, the new report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Temasek highlighted the urgent need for large-scale solutions to build resilience across sectors.

However, despite this growing demand, current global spending on adaptation and resilience solutions remained limited -- hovering around \$76 billion annually -- with most of the funding coming

Indian aluminium sector to stay resilient amidst global trade shifts

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Indian primary aluminium manufacturers are projected to remain in a healthy profitable state for this fiscal year, countering global trade headwinds, including the recent hike in US tariffs on aluminium imports, according to a report by Crisil Ratings.

The US raised the tariff on aluminium imports to 25 percent across all countries, which increased India's aluminium tariff from 2.55 per cent to 25 per cent. But, it had a limited impact on India's aluminium exports directly as the US accounts for less than 5 per cent of India's total aluminium exports, limiting the immediate consequences of the tariff increase.

"Strong operating efficiencies, low-cost operations, and favourable global demand-supply balance will keep margins over a solid USD 650 per tonne," Crisil Ratings said.

With nearly 50 per cent of India's annual primary aluminium output being exported to international markets, the report says "Indian producers may face heightened competition in their regular overseas markets, as key exporters to the US divert supplies to other geographies."



"While global demand growth may moderate this fiscal, surplus will still be limited. This is because the global aluminium market faces limited risk of over-supply, as smelters in major aluminium-producing countries, including India, have consistently operated at utilisation rates well above 90 per cent" said Ankit Hakhru, Director, Crisil Ratings.

Crisil Ratings indicates that the risk of price volatility could impact profit margins for domestic primary aluminium players. "Realisations for domestic producers are linked to London Metal Exchange (LME) prices," the report states.

Due to the uncertainties regarding global macroeconomic growth post the tariff announcements by the US, the aluminium prices on LME has witnessed a lot of volatility, and they moderated to about USD 2,350 per tonne in March 2025.

Despite this volatility, Crisil anticipates that LME prices will remain above USD 2,300 per tonne on average for the fiscal year, providing a degree of stability for Indian producers, said Ankush Tyagi, Associate Director, Crisil Ratings.

Bank of Baroda releases FY25 and Q4 financial results

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 7 MAY

Bank of Baroda has announced its financial results for the quarter and financial year ended 31st March 2025, highlighting a strong performance and robust asset quality. The bank reported a 10.1 per cent year-on-year growth in standalone net profit, reaching an all-time high of INR 19,581 crore for FY25. The consolidated net profit crossed the INR 20,000 crore milestone and stood at INR 20,716 crore.

The bank's global business crossed a significant milestone, reaching INR 27 lakh crore as of 31st March 2025. This growth in profitability was driven by a 14.8 per cent year-on-year rise in non-



interest income, which amounted to INR 16,647 crore during FY25. Operating profit grew by 4.7 per cent year-on-year, reaching INR 32,435 crore. Key performance metrics reflect continued strength.

Return on Assets (ROA) remained above 1 per cent at 1.16 per cent, while Return on Equity (ROE) stood at 16.96 per cent for FY25. The global Net Interest Margin (NIM) was 3.02 per cent, with

the domestic NIM at 3.18 percent. The bank continued to maintain strong asset quality. Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) declined by 66 basis points year-on-year to 2.26 per cent, down from 2.92 per cent in FY24. Net NPA (NNPA) also reduced by 10 basis points to 0.58 per cent, compared to 0.68 per cent in the previous year -- marking the lowest GNPA and NNPA levels in the past 13 years. The slippage ratio decreased by 21 basis points to 0.78 per cent for FY25. The bank's balance sheet remains solid with a healthy Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of 93.29 per cent with technical write-offs (TWO), and 74.87 per cent without TWO. Credit cost was kept well under control at 0.47 per cent for the year.

Bank of Baroda's global advances grew by 12.8 per cent year-on-year, while domestic advances increased by 13.7 per cent in FY25, supported by a strong retail loan book. Organic retail advances grew by 19.4 per cent, with auto loans growing by 20.3 per cent, mortgage loans by 18.9 per cent, home loans by 17.3 per cent, and education loans by 15.9 per cent. The share of Retail, Agriculture, and MSME (RAM) loans in total advances improved by 190 basis points to 59.6 per cent, with the RAM portfolio growing by 17.5 percent year-on-year. In recognition of its strong performance, the Bank's Board has recommended a dividend of 418 per cent, subject to requisite approvals.

'Operation Sindoor' brings uncertainty to Indian stock market, UK-India FTA offers promising avenue

RITWIK MUKHERJEE

KOLKATA, 7 MAY

The 'Operation Sindoor' has had its toll on the Indian capital markets. The markets have reacted strongly and sharply. And understandably so. The most obvious has happened.

As obvious the attack gives a boost to the Indian defense companies such Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL), Bharat Electronics (BEL), and Bharat Dynamics -- showed an increase. And it does not require any rocket science to understand this. Because conjecture during military oper-

ations holds that higher governments spending on defence is reflected in the economy. FII plays a vital role in Indian Market and as we know these players usually pull out if the region experiences some pressure or unrest. Due to this a short-term selling pressure can be seen on the Indian equities, said Ankur Sharma, Market Analyst, VT Markets.

If "Operation Sindoor" has sparked market volatility, another significant development, which has happened almost simultaneously, has also had its impacts. Actually, the just signed FTA with UK

promises to offer Long-Term Relief, according to market analysts. India began "Operation Sindoor" targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. It is a retaliation of Pahalgam attack where 26 Indians and one Nepalese were killed. While the announcement caused the Indian Stock market react strongly.

As anxiety rises and capital shifts into safer assets like gold and the US Dollar, gold price goes up as it's nature whenever world sees unrest and the Indian Rupee fell somewhat. UK-based service companies can have more access

to Indian Markets making the legal formalities easy for setup which result in more jobs for Indians and the UK is expecting its GDP increase by £4.8 billion yearly.

This agreement is anticipated for India to boost exports -- particularly in textiles and food goods -- and draw more foreign capital. "While the War situation brings uncertainty to the Indian Stock Market the UK-India FTA presents a promising avenue for economic growth. Investors and market participants will closely monitor these developments," said Sharma.

Paytm delivers profitability breakthrough in Q4, brokerages raise targets

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Paytm (One97 Communications Limited) has delivered a solid operational turnaround in Q4 FY25, achieving profitability at the EBITDA before ESOP level -- a significant milestone in its path to sustained profits. To this, leading brokerages have responded positively, raising their price targets and highlighting Paytm's improving fundamentals, sharp cost control, and expanding merchant ecosystems.

According to Bernstein, which reiterated Outperform rating, Paytm has "achieved EBITDA breakeven with PAT profitability in sight." Bernstein has set a price target of Rs 1,100, implying a

potential 35 per cent upside. The brokerage attributed a couple of growth drivers leading to EBITDA before ESOP profitability this quarter.

"A combination of stable payment margins and sequential growth in financial services revenue, coupled with a marginal decline/stable expenses line resulted in Paytm turning profitable on EBITDA before ESOP basis," said the report by the brokerage.

JM Financial echoed this optimism, stating, "Adjusted EBITDA profitability achieved, PAT in focus next quarter". The firm maintained its 'Buy' rating with a raised price target of Rs 1,070. It cited Paytm's contribution margin expansion and disciplined expense controls as key positives, along with steady growth in



Inter beat Barcelona in thriller to reach Champions League final

Italian giants dig deep to edge out former European champions 7-6 on aggregate in edge-of-the-seat drama

AGENCIES

MILAN, 7 MAY

Inter Milan have another Champions League final to look forward to. Once the players catch their breath, that is.

In the end it took extra time, two astonishing comebacks and 13 goals to separate Barcelona and Inter and see the Italian club — who were mere seconds away from elimination — prevail 7-6 on aggregate after winning another rollercoaster encounter.

Inter Milan advanced to the UEFA Champions League final after a dramatic 4-3 extra-time victory over Barcelona on Wednesday

(IST), securing a 7-6 aggregate win in the semifinal second leg at San Siro.

The seven-time finalists, who last reached the title match in 2023, will seek their fourth European crown when they face either Arsenal or Paris Saint-Germain in the final at Munich's Allianz Arena on 31 May. Substitute Davide Frattesi was the extra-time star for Inter, firing home in the 99th minute to leave the Barcelona players slumped to the ground while his Nerazzurri teammates — including those on the bench — were racing to celebrate with him. Three-time European champions Inter, who had lost the 2023 final to Man-



chester City, will face either Paris Saint-Germain or Arsenal in Munich on 31 May for the title. PSG beat Arsenal 1-0 in London last week in their first match. The return leg is Wednesday in Paris.

Lautaro Martinez opened the scoring in the 21st minute, finishing from close range

after Federico Dimarco dispossessed Frenkie de Jong near the touchline, allowing Denzel Dumfries to whip in a precise cross. Martinez then won penalty just before halftime after being brought down in the box, and Hakan Calhanoglu converted from the spot to give Inter a 2-0

lead. There was little sign at halftime of the drama which was about to be played out.

Barcelona then mounted a second-half comeback. Gerard Martin's cross found Eric Garcia, who volleyed in from inside the area in the 54th minute. Six minutes later, Dani Olmo leveled the match with a powerful header, again from a Martin delivery. Raphinha appeared to win it for the visitors in the 87th minute, tapping home a rebound to make it 3-2.

But Inter struck back deep into stoppage time. Dumfries delivered another low cross from the right that found Francesco Acerbi, whose finish forced extra time and

reignited the home crowd.

The winner came in the 99th minute, when Marcus Thuram broke down the right and cut the ball back for Mehdi Taremi, who laid it off to Davide Frattesi. The Italian midfielder curled a shot into the far corner to complete Inter's stunning comeback and seal a place in the final. The two-legged tie produced 13 goals, equaling the record for the most in a Champions League knockout round matchup. Inter previously won the competition in 1964, 1965 and 2010.

Barcelona, five-time European champions, were denied a return to the final for the first time since 2015.

ories in the BFC shirt," Roshan said, after completing the formalities on his deal.

Versatile in his ability to function down either flank as a full-back, Roshan has made 91 appearances in the Indian Super League, racking up 14 assists and two goals in the process. The 26-year-old has also appeared in two ISL finals while also winning the Durand Cup in 2022.

In the most recent 2024-25 season, Roshan was one of only two players to appear in every single ISL fixture for the Blues, making 28 appearances in total alongside club captain Sunil Chhetri.

"Roshan is a player we've seen grow from a teenager in our B Team to a regular starter for the first team, and he's also an Indian international now.

Roshan Singh extends contract with Bengaluru

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BENGALURU, 7 MAY

Bengaluru FC, on Wednesday, announced that full-back Naorem Roshan Singh has signed a new four-year deal with the club, committing his future to the Blues until the end of the 2028-29 season. Roshan, who joined the club as a teenager in 2017, progressed through the side's Reserve Team before making his Indian Super League (ISL) debut in 2020.

"I'm really happy to have extended my journey with BFC, a club where I've grown as both a player and a person. The support of my teammates, the love of the fans, and the city have made this an easy decision for me.

I feel at home here in Bengaluru, and I'm looking forward to making more mem-

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
Ph: 01639-256232, 256236 Advt. No.BFU-25/13

VACANCIES

Online applications are invited w.e.f **09.05.2025 to 23.05.2025** upto 05:00 PM from eligible candidates for the recruitment to the posts of Professor (10), Associate Professor (14), Assistant Professor (27) on regular basis at Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Faridkot constituent Colleges/Institutions of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot.

For Application form, fee, specialty wise detail of posts, Category wise distribution and other terms & conditions, visit University website: www.bfuhs.ac.in.

REGISTRAR

COURT NOTICE

ORDINARY/URGENT/DASTI

NAZIR/S.H.O.
Date of order : 04/01/25 Name of Process Server:
Date of filing of PF :
Date of issue : P Bahuguna
No of Documents Annexed : Number of Process :
Next date of hearing : 03/07/25 Date of Return :
IN THE COURT OF SH. ANUJ KUMAR SINGH, CMM, NEW DELHI DISTRICT, PHC.
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82)

Cr Case: 8881/19

PS: Customs

U/s: 132 & 135 Customs Act

Title: Customs vs Tejbir Bala

Whereas complaint has been made before me **Gopal Mehta, S/o Sh. Om Prakash, R/o B-182 A, 1st Floor, Kalkaji, New Delhi** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section **Above** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Above** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Above** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Above** is required to appear in this Court to answer the said complaint on the day of **03/07/25**.

Chief Judicial Magistrate

25 G.F. Annex Building, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797
Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604
Tel: (91-22) 41035000 - Fax: (91-22) 25806654
E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted on **12.05.2025 from 10 AM** at following district Centre DELHI-KHANPUR NAGAR GL - H No. 24, Nambardar Market, Main Karawal Nagar Chowk, Delhi 110094. Any change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the auction cannot be held on the date mentioned here in or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir.

Gold Loan A/C No.: GL3019749, GL3019749, GL30196196, GL303968352, GL31134092, GL31301983, GL32492091, GL32494459, GL32536609, GL32551728, GL32757171, GL32772494, GL33045567, GL33055633, GL33891030, GL33852111, GL36128256, GL39482354, GL39554490, GL39685452, GL39696158, GL39701230, GL39740155, GL397417552, GL39746341, GL39771158, GL34187390, GL34250801, GL34266887, GL34277718, GL27762992, GL30788639, GL30822022, GL3095762, GL3230517, GL32993341, GL32956094, GL33159040, GL33176475, GL33475356, GL34006933, GL34008560, GL3402998, GL34023013, GL34052791, GL34144349, GL34159806, GL34177281, GL34234349, GL30955443, GL32680632, GL32686432, GL32780042, GL32891548, GL34155707, GL342345683.

The Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereto and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s) pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.



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Gold Loan A/C No.: GL2721437685, GL303767849, GL330776707, GL33601958, GL33619501, GL34163980, GL34185615, GL34308806, GL34161599, GL33166416, GL31170709, GL34127336, GL31954928, GL31961268, GL32079127, GL32496535, GL32602608, GL32719130, GL32748094, GL32793238, GL32800190, GL33637429, GL33645241, GL33949597, GL33967448, GL34149362, GL34202326, GL34283729, GL34284367, GL34286251, GL34293648, GL3597144, GL36176478, GL36272174, GL36288771, GL3719145, GL37283405, GL37304502, GL37403724, GL372740372, GL37293054, GL32981780, GL327835793, GL33924341, GL3416809, GL34206923, GL34281799, GL34291803, GL34197333, GL34205834, GL34079108, GL34245057, GL34261494, GL34249063, GL34271600, GL32821308, GL32800265, GL33024254, GL33138378, GL33226899, GL3327069, GL34362273, GL31092531, GL31112631, GL31254111, GL313150756.

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For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.



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JADEJA RETAINS TOP SPOT

Star India spinner Ravindra Jadeja remained at the top, whereas Bangladesh cricketer Mehidy Hasan Miraz rose in the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings for all-rounders. Miraz gained one place to move to second overall on the latest rankings for Test all-rounders on the back of his heroics for Bangladesh in their recent Test series against Zimbabwe, with Jadeja's lead at the top now under 100 rating points

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

BCCI gets government clearance to host PBKS vs DC match in Dharmshala: The BCCI has received clearance from the Indian government to host match between Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Delhi Capitals (DC) match on Thursday of the ongoing IPL 2025 in Dharmshala. However, the May 11 match has been shifted from Dharmshala to Mumbai, and the new date for the match will be updated soon. As Dharmshala is located near the India-Pakistan border, there might be a threat at this venue, so there is a chance that the Punjab-based franchise will play their remaining home matches at a different place. "BCCI gets clearance from the government to host tomorrow's match in Dharmshala, but the 11 May match shifted to Mumbai from Dharmshala, the fresh date for the match will be updated soon," a BCCI official told the media. PBKS' next fixture against Mumbai Indians (MI) at Dharmshala is also reworked as the airlines have cancelled their flight operations in 11 cities across north, northwestern and central India till 10 May including Srinagar, Jammu, Amritsar, Leh, Chandigarh, Dharmshala, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Gwalior, Kishangarh, and Rajkot. "The match between Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings shifted to Mumbai from Dharmshala, as the Airport of Dharmshala has been closed, and the match was scheduled on 11 May," a BCCI official said.

With play-offs at stake, DC aim for course correction vs Punjab Kings

Currently at 5th, Delhi will hope to shake off a dismal run of form and boost their chances for the knockout stage

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Desperate to get their campaign back on track, Delhi Capitals will hope to arrest their recent string of dismal performances, that includes three losses and a no result due to rain in their last five matches when they take on a confident Punjab Kings in a league match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in Dharmshala on Thursday.

Placed fifth in the IPL table with 13 points from 11 matches, the Capitals are in dire need of consistency from all departments. On the other hand, Punjab Kings are high on confidence after winning seven of their 11 matches, and are comfortably sitting at the third spot with 15 points. Heading into the contest, the Axar Patel-led side will expect their misfiring top and middle order to get their act together if they are to secure themselves of a place in the play-offs. Having started the tournament with four consecutive wins, Delhi Capitals had themselves to blame for the situation they are presently in, as they failed to cash in on the home advantage at the Arun Jaitley Stadium where they could manage just a solitary win, that too via a Super Over.

In their previous match, Delhi's batting vulnerabilities were exposed by a disciplined



Sunrisers Hyderabad attack that reduced them to 29 for 5 before eventually restricted them to 133. DC's top order lacked the confidence.

Karun Nair's promotion as an opener in the last game backfired as he was dismissed for a duck, while South African Faf du Plessis also perished early trying to force a boundary on a bowler-friendly pitch. Abishek Porel has failed to capitalise on his starts, leaving DC at the mercy of the middle and lower order.

The burden fell on KL Rahul, their leading run-getter this season with 381 runs, but the right-hander can't always

be expected to bail out the side, and even Axar himself was dismissed early. While DC still have depth in their batting line-up, and it was the effort of Tristan Stubbs, bowling all-rounder Vipraj Nigam, and Ashutosh that helped them post a fighting total, they will expect the top order to set the tone. Meanwhile, their opponents are flying high on confidence after an impressive season so far. In contrast to Delhi's top order woes, Punjab's top order has been rock solid, with Prabhjot Singh providing flying starts and accumulating 437 runs as an opener.

His opening partner Priyansh Arya, with 347 runs, has made the most of his chances, while skipper Shreyas Iyer has been in red-hot form with the bat and astute as captain. He has scored 405 runs, including four fifties. The middle order looks a compact unit with Nehal Wadhera and Shashank Singh stepping up when required. It will be interesting to see how DC's bowling attack, comprising Mitchell Starc and the spin trio of Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, and Vipraj Nigam, cope with PBKS's firepower. The team will expect more from pace duo Dushmantha Chameera and Mukesh Kumar.

PBKS' bowling looks a formidable unit with Arshdeep Singh leading from the front in the powerplay, taking 16 wickets, including three in the last game against LSG. For Punjab, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal's return to form is also a good sign heading into the business end of the tournament. Chahal has so far taken 14 wickets, including a hat-trick against CSK. The rest of the attack — Marco Jansen, Azmatullah Omarzai, Vijaykumar Vysak and Marcus Stoimis — has complemented the duo well.

Squads:

Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel (c), Jake Fraser-McGirk, Abishek Porel, Karun Nair, KL Rahul (wk), Tristan Stubbs, Ashutosh Sharma, Vipraj Nigam, Mitchell Starc, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohit Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Sameer Rizvi, Darshan Nalanda, Dono Ferreira, Tripurana Vijay, Dushmantha Chameera, Faf du Plessis, T Natarajan, Ajay Jadev Mandal, Manvanth Kumar L, Madhav Tiwari.

Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer (c), Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Marcus Stoimis, Nehal Wadhera, Glenn Maxwell, Vysak, Vijaykumar, Yash Thakur, Harpreet Brar, Vishnu Vinod, Marco Jansen, Lockie Ferguson, Josh Inglis, Xavier Bartlett, Kuldeep Sen, Pyla Avinash, Suryansh Shedge, Musheer Khan, Harnoor Pannu, Aaron Hardie, Priyansh Arya, Azmatullah Omarzai.

'A crime': Hardik on the three no-balls against GT

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

"We just had to play proper, normal cricket and once the powerplay was over, we thought now we will try to play our normal game a little bit more. But the rain kept coming in. It's not easy in a T20 match, if there is such a long break to be able to come back and start the game," he added.

Fines for Pandya, Nehra

Meanwhile, Pandya and Gujarat Titans head coach Ashish Nehra have been fined for isolated incidents regarding the Code of Conduct breach.

While Hardik and his team-mates (including the impact sub Karn Sharma) was penalised for maintaining a slow-over-rate during Tuesday's last-ball thriller, Nehra was penalised for breach of conduct.

In the stop-start second half of the match, when rain took the players off and brought them back in a few times, MI had to bring an additional fielder into the 30-yard circle for the final over - the 19th - of the chase as is the in-game penalty norm in the IPL. GT needed 15 runs to get off that Deepak Chahar and got over the line of the last ball.

Hardik was fined INR 24 lakh, since this was the second time MI had committed the offence under his captaincy this season.

His team-mates were each fined either INR 6 lakh or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser.

Nehra, meanwhile, was at his animated best during the dying minutes of the game, when it looked like he wanted the umpires to restart the game after the latest rain interruption.

His conduct during the game was deemed as Level 1 offence under Article 2.20 - which pertains to conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game.

The former India left-arm pacer was fined 25 percent of his match fees for the same and also handed one demerit point, though the IPL didn't state what exactly his offence was.

He admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.20 - which pertains to the conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game - and accepted the Match Referee's sanction.

For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding.

This is the second time a coach has been penalised with a demerit point for a breach of the IPL's code. Munjal Patel, the Delhi Capitals (DC) bowling coach, was similarly penalised after their Super Over win against Rajasthan Royals (RR) in Delhi on 16 April.

Rohit Sharma retires from Test cricket with immediate effect

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Rohit Sharma has announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect.

"Hello everyone! I would just like to share that I am retiring from Test cricket. It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites. Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format," Rohit, who had retired from T20Is after leading India to the T20 World title in the Americas last year, announced in a social media post on Wednesday.

Rohit retires from Test cricket after featuring in 67 matches, scoring 4301 runs with a highest



score of 212. He has 12 centuries and 18 fifties, along with two wickets with his part-time off-spin.

Rohit's retirement will force India to name a new full-time captain almost immediately at the end of IPL 2025, with India's five-Test series in England scheduled to begin on 20 June at Headingley.

Pacer spearhead Jasprit Bum-

Rohit missed the first and last Tests on that tour of Australia, the first to be at home in India for the birth of his child, and the last, in Sydney, where he "stood down".

At the time, he had stressed that it was just a reaction to his poor batting form, not a "retirement decision", and that he was not "going to take myself out of the game".

Speaking to StarSports, during the Test match, Rohit had said, "I sat out of this match because runs are not coming off my bat. There is no guarantee runs won't come five or two months down the line. I have seen a lot in cricket that life changes every second, every minute, everyday. I have confidence in me that things can change, but at the

same time I have to be realistic as well. So life won't change by what people with a mic, pen or laptop write or say. They can't decide when we should retire, when we should sit out, when we should captain. I am a sensible man, mature man, father of two kids. So I know what I need in life," he added.

As a leader in the longest format, Rohit captained India in 24 Test matches, winning 12 and losing 9. While stepping away from the oldest format, Rohit confirmed that he will continue to be available for selection in ODIs.

The departure of Rohit from Test cricket marks the end of an era, as Indian cricket bids farewell to one of its most elegant stroke-makers in whites.

Shotgun WC: Abhay Singh Sekhon raises final hopes

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

Abhay Singh Sekhon, the youngest member of the Indian men's skeet shooting trio at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun in Nicosia, Cyprus, raised hopes of a final entry, ending day two of qualifications in fifth place and a tally of 98 after four rounds.

The Punjab youngster was just one off the pace, with former world champion and Olympic silver medalist Jesper Hansen of Denmark and for-

mer junior world champion Elia Sdruciooli of Italy, leading the 91-strong field with 99 hits each.

Abhay (25, 24, 24, 25) had missed just one target over two rounds on Monday and repeated the feat on day two Tuesday, only this time finishing with a perfect-round instead of beginning with one. He has six other strongshooters for company on the same tally and the fight for the top six finalists on day three, will likely go down to the last shot and multiple shoot-offs, ahead of the final.

KIYG: Hours after grandfather's death, gritty Ayush inspires Bihar to Sepak Takraw silver

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 7 MAY

It was a day of mixed emotions for Ayush Kumar, who showcased remarkable grit and determination as part of the Bihar team that underlined its rising stature in Sepak Takraw by clinching the men's team silver after going down 1-2 to powerhouse Manipur in a tantalising final of the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 on Tuesday.

Parinaz Dhaliwal (23, 24, 20, 25) had a tough third round but finished with a 25 to lie 19th, a point behind Maheshwari, while Yashavini Rathore (18, 23, 24, 21) with 88 was in 38th position.

On the opening day of the competition, Indian skeet shooters had a mixed first day of qualification with Abhay Singh Sekhon in the men's event returning the best numbers off the six Indians on show, going into day two in 14th spot with a tally of 49 (25, 24) hits out of 50 targets. Eight in the 92-strong men's field strung perfect rounds of 25 each and Abhay was among a chasing pack of 13, who missed one target.

Olympian and senior pro Mairaj Khan missed a target a round, to also be well in contention in 32nd spot, while the third Indian in men's skeet Rituraj Bundela (23, 21), was further down with six misses.

For her younger brother, with teary eyes and a phone in hand to stay updated on the rituals back home, she managed to stay strong, often stepping aside to cry in private, just to ensure Ayush remained focused on the game. "He (grandfather) was unwell for some time, was in the hospital for the last few days. We were expecting him to get better, but he passed away today. He was really close to both of us and today is probably the biggest day in Ayush's career so far," said

for her younger brother. With Ayush remained focused on the game. "He (grandfather) was unwell for some time, was in the hospital for the last few days. We were expecting him to get better, but he passed away today. He was really close to both of us and today is probably the biggest day in Ayush's career so far," said

Khusbu.

Born to an auto-driver from the city, Ayush and his sister started their journey in the sport only four years back but hope that the KIYG medal will not only inspire him but other budding athletes to take up Sepak Takraw as a career. Despite the personal setback, the 14-year-old Ayush Kumar managed to keep his emotions under check on the court, as the Bihar team came up with impressive performances throughout, to eventually finish a close second.

The men's final witnessed a tantalising contest with the pendulum swinging till the final set of the third Regu. After Manipur comfortably took the first Regu, Bihar bounced back in style to win the second and take the contest to the decider. In the final Regu, Manipur came back from a 1-0 deficit to take the next two sets and eventually the top spot on the podium.

In contrast, the women's final witnessed a one-sided contest with Manipur girls dominating the court throughout. Earlier, Manipur sailed into the final after getting the better of Andhra Pradesh 2-0 in the first semifinal while Kerala defeated Haryana by a similar margin to advance to the gold medal contest.

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OFFICE OF THE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU MANIPUR
DANCE ACADEMY, IMPHALADVERTISEMENT
Dated 6th May, 2025

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following vacant posts in Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal, Manipur. Interested candidates may apply in enclosed Performa along with the relevant documents and testimonials to the Director, Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal, Manipur 795001 on or before 20th June, 2025 through post or by hand:

- Name of the post: Assistant
No. of the post: 1 (one), Category: UR,
Classification of post: Group B,
Pay Level: Level-6 (Rs. 35400-112400/-)
- Name of the post: Stenographer
No. of the post: 1 (one), Category: UR,
Classification of post: Group B,
Pay Level: Level-6 (Rs. 35400-112400/-)
- Name of the post: Senior Clerk
No. of the post: 1 (one), Category: UR,
Classification of post: Group C,
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Sd-
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